

TODAY

WIN A LUXURY BREAK WITH RELAIS & CHATEAUX

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Body on desolate Norfolk beach may be Jodi Loughlin's



Jodi: body has not yet been identified as hers

By JOANNA BALE

THE body of a child, believed to be that of six-year-old Jodi Loughlin, has been found on a Norfolk beach 30 miles east of Holme, where she disappeared with her younger brother 13 days ago.

The body was found at 8.15am by a man out jogging. It was lying on a deserted, windswept beach between the seaside villages of Weybourne and Sheringham. Local residents said the jogger ran to a house several hundred yards away on the cliffs above the

beach to alert the emergency services.

Police are continuing their search for Tom, Jodi's four-year-old brother. Whether the two children were simply swept out to sea minutes after being last seen by their parents or abducted and perhaps murdered remains a mystery. Holiday cottages at Holme were searched again yesterday after the body was found.

Describing the finding of the body, a police spokesman said it was seen by a police surgeon and forensic officers before being removed for a

post-mortem examination yesterday afternoon. The spokesman emphasised that no formal identification had been made at that stage, adding: "Police are therefore still unable to identify whether it is or is not that of Jodi Loughlin, but steps are being taken to establish identity, and close contact is being maintained with Kevin and Lynette, Jodi's parents. Police inquiries into the disappearance of Tom and Jodi are continuing. The coroner has been informed and an inquest is to be held at a later date."

Later police sources said the badly decomposed body would be identified by dental records and clothing to save Jodi's parents any further distress.

Yesterday a police helicopter searched the north Norfolk coast for any other bodies. Chief Inspector John Savage said: "A police helicopter has been searching the area after every tide likely to produce something."

Sergeant Peter Thompson said police searches of holiday homes at Holme were "not significant", adding: "There is

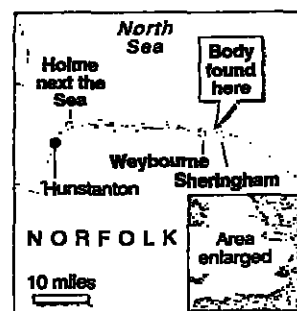
nothing significant happening at Holme. We have returned to the beach and village, but it is routine and part of our thoroughness in this inquiry. I am not aware of anything significant that has directed officers to houses in Holme."

The little girl's body was found in an area known as Spiller Gap on a shingle beach too inaccessible to be used by most holidaymakers. But the coastal footpath along the top of the cliff is used by many walkers, leading police to believe that the body could not for long have been there if

was found.

Coastguards believe it was washed up during Thursday's storms. But Colin Sturman, the duty district coastguard controller at Great Yarmouth, expressed surprise that the body had apparently taken 13 days to come ashore. He added: "We would have expected that, on the evening the children disappeared, with the high spring tide, their bodies would have turned up on the beach the same day."

Jodi and Tom were last seen running towards the sea just a day after starting their holiday



with their parents Kevin Loughlin and his partner Lynette Thornton from Norwood, south London.

Call for inquiry on paedophile's zoo trip escape

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

AN NHS trust was criticised by the Health Minister last night for putting children at risk by allowing a dangerous paedophile to escape from custody while on a trip to a zoo.

Gerry Malone demanded a full report on the escape of Trevor Holland, 52, while on a supervised outing from a health service medium secure unit to Chessington Zoo in Surrey. As children's groups, MPs and a victims' charity condemned health officials for allowing the trip, Mr Malone said: "This patient's security arrangements were clearly inadequate."

"We all ought to be able to rely on being able to take our children to enjoy themselves in places like Chessington without being at risk from people at large who both the courts and medical professionals judge to be unfit to return to the community."

Police warned the public not to approach Holland who they described as violent and who has a history of absconding. Holland, a patient at Eric Sheppard secure unit in Abbot's Langley, south west Hertfordshire, was on a half-day trip to Chessington when he escaped. He vanished at a public house near the zoo after complaining of stomach pains and visiting a lavatory on three occasions.

Holland, who has convictions for indecency and send-



Trevor Holland: danger to the public, say police

ing obscene literature to children under 16, had been taken to the zoo as part of his treatment and rehabilitation.

Mr Tom Freeman, chairman of the Horizon NHS Trust, which runs the unit, said last night: "If he falls in or meets up with the wrong people who might lead him into compromising positions with children it could be very serious."

Relatives of Holland's victims have been warned that he is on the run as he has tried to contact them by telephone in the past.

The father of one teenage victim said: "I just don't believe he could have got out again. He is supposed to be in a secure place and yet he just walked off."

"People like him are locked up for a reason. Why do they

let them out on day trips? At the very least he should have been supervised properly."

He added: "This has put a massive strain on all of us. We are waiting for him to turn up and wondering whether the police will catch him before he does."

An official with the North West Thames Regional Health Authority defended the decision to allow the convicted paedophile to visit the zoo in Surrey where there are many children. A spokesman said: "We are treating him for learning difficulties. He had approval to go to the zoo because he likes animals."

"The staff have to balance restrictions with their treatment regime. Anywhere he went, he would see children."

Holland, who comes from Lancashire, had been detained at the Eric Sheppard secure unit since May after he had absconded from Harbury hospital near St Albans. He had used a stolen key to break out from the medium secure unit and was on the run for 12 hours before being arrested in a restaurant.

He had been sent to the hospital under Section 37 of the Mental Health Act after being convicted of affray at a public house in Oxford only a few weeks after being released from jail. He had served less than a year in prison.

continued on page 2, col 8



Frank Bruno announces his retirement from boxing after 14 years yesterday

Bruno steps out of the ring

By JOE JOSEPH

FRANK BRUNO, whose punch never quite matched his popularity, yesterday bid farewell to the ring for good after his eye specialist warned him that another hard blow to the head could leave him blinded.

"I'm officially retired," the former world heavyweight champion announced as he walked into a hotel near his home in Brentwood, Essex.

He is still only 34. So what's next?

"I'm not too sure yet. Spend more time with my family and chill out. y'know? I've had a good career. I've met some nice people."

Bruno, who won his world title last September against

Oliver McCall, only to lose it to Mike Tyson in March, had had his heart set on a return bout. But he decided to retire after Professor David McLeod, a specialist at the Manchester Royal Eye Hospital, warned him this week that it might only take one more heavy hook to leave him blind in one eye.

Professor McLeod told Bruno that his right eye, which has been operated on twice, would not pass British Board of Control regulations. Bruno, 14 years a pro, said he was in shock but didn't argue. However he admitted that after making the decision to quit: "I shed a little tear."

He said his wife Laura and children, Nicola 14, Rachel 10, and Franklin 17 months, were happy with his decision. But Bruno, who tried to sound chirpy without his usual smile and deep laugh, looked deflated, like a bright beachball with a slow puncture.

William Hill, the bookmakers, were yesterday ruling Bruno's decision to retire: "We won millions thanks to Frank," a spokesman said. Hill is offering odds of 5/1 on Bruno being knighted in the New Year's honours list and 33/1 to win the BBC Sports Personality of the Year title.

People's champion, page 49

Prescott says his colleagues are leaving him in the dark

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN PRESCOTT was embroiled in another embarrassing Labour party row last night after it emerged that he had urged Shadow Cabinet colleagues not to leave him in the dark over policy statements.

The deputy Labour leader has written to members of the Shadow Cabinet and their staff insisting that draft documents "should be copied to me at the same time as they are copied to the leader's office."

The memo comes after widespread reports that Mr Prescott is growing increasingly concerned that he is being sidelined by the Labour leader and left out of his inner circle, which includes Peter Mandelson, the party's chief election strategist.

Over the past few weeks he has made clear that he resents the power held by Labour's unelected spin doctors who often give briefings on Tony Blair's behalf on topics which have not been discussed with him. He has also said that the party is uneasy about the speed of changes introduced by Mr Blair.

The letter, sent out earlier this month, reminds colleagues that under formal Labour procedure draft policies should be shown to him. "There should be consultation on the draft with both the leader and the deputy leader prior to a document being finally cleared and before any policy statement is published," it says. "As we enter the next phase of the Road to the

Manifesto campaign and the general election campaign itself, it is especially important that I am kept apprised of all policy developments."

Labour leadership sources last night tried to play down the memo insisting that "it was a fuss about nothing." One senior party source said the letter was merely a routine statement of established policy aimed particularly at MPs' staff.

A source close to Mr Prescott also made light of the memo, insisting that there had been no sinister motive and that it was sent out every year. Similar letters had been issued in the past by Mr Blair's office and by Tom Sawyer, Labour's general secretary.

The Tory party was quick to exploit the latest embarrassment. "This letter confirms what we have always suspected about John Prescott and the Labour Party. Mr Prescott has been systematically sidelined and humiliated both by Tony Blair and by his Shadow Cabinet colleagues," a Central Office spokesman said. "No wonder he has stopped stamping his foot in private and has already started to announce publicly his deep unhappiness with the present direction of his party."

Michael Heseltine also seized on Mr Prescott's move. "Today we have devastating evidence that in Tony Blair's mind, it's not just the membership of the party that is irrelevant, it's his own deputy leader."

Rugby kicks off in disarray

ON the opening day of the domestic league season, rugby union in England and Wales is in disarray after yesterday's decision by the top Welsh clubs to break away from their governing body, the Welsh Rugby Union.

Their English counterparts had decided 24 hours earlier to seek independence from the

Rugby Football Union. The clubs are dismayed at the unions' restrictions on competitive structures and access to money from television and sponsorship. The 56 players offered contracts by the Scottish union have a chance to discuss terms tomorrow.

Rugby turmoil, page 52

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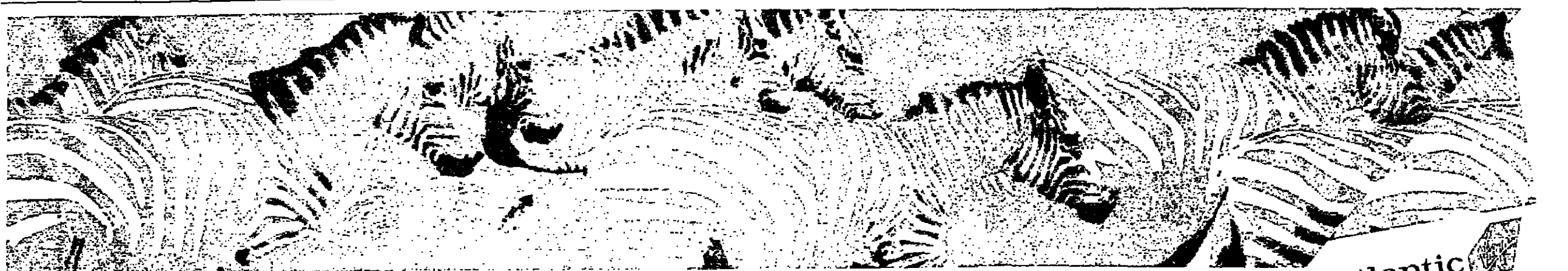


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Labour warns striking postal workers

BY JILL SHERMAN
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour leadership intervened in the postal workers' strike yesterday, warning that the party would "review" its stance on the dispute if the two sides fail to hammer out a deal this weekend.

On the eve of a crucial meeting of union leaders to consider further action, Tony Blair urged them to ensure they had the support of their members before continuing further strike action. David Blunkett, the Shadow Employment Secretary, went further by suggesting that the party would withdraw its tacit support if the dispute dragged on.

The Royal Mail claimed that up to ten million letters were delivered

despite yesterday's 24-hour stoppage, the seventh strike day since the dispute began. They claimed that one in four delivery offices opened and 15,000 workers defied the strike, although the Communication Workers Union disputed the figures.

Last month Mr Blunkett incensed some of his Shadow Cabinet colleagues, including John Prescott, when he urged striking Tube workers to go to arbitration. At the time, Labour leadership sources made clear that there was more justification for the postal dispute - over pay and working practices - and declined to comment on it.

But yesterday Mr Blunkett risked angering the union, just as the two sides appeared to be on the point of sorting out a settlement. A union

source said the Labour intervention was "not helpful".

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, put more pressure on the unions by warning that he would go ahead with a further suspension of the Post Office monopoly if any more strike days were called. The current one-month suspension ends next week.

Mr Lang also made clear that the Government was drawing up new laws to curb further industrial action in the wake of the postal, railway and underground stoppages this summer.

Mr Blunkett said on Radio 4's *The World at One*: "I think it is important that one last-ditch effort is made by both sides to find a settlement. If there isn't a settlement, our view, in

terms of the consumers and businesses, would have to be reviewed."

Mr Blunkett stressed that he did not want to say or do anything over the weekend that would damage "endeavour" to bridge that very narrow gap. He said he did not think it was helpful for the Government to threaten the monopoly further.

Earlier Mr Blair indicated that the union should hold a further ballot to ensure its members' support: "I've got no view at all that leads me to suppose that the union won't understand it's important to make sure they have the consent of their membership," he said. "My clear judgement is that I want this dispute settled."

Mr Lang said that the recent level

of industrial action justified earlier Tory laws on strikes and that further steps might be needed and were being considered. Of the postal workers, he said: "We are concerned to protect the public interest."

"For that reason we have already lifted the monopoly for one month, and we made it clear that if the strikes continued we would lift it again at the end of that month, which is next week, for three months."

Alan Johnson, the joint CWU general secretary, appealed last night for fresh negotiations. He said: "We want a solution, a lasting one that we can put to our members that addresses problems of low pay, low morale and long hours. We can only ballot when we have something to ballot on."

SNP maps out
smooth way to
independence

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE STEPS Scotland could take to become an independent nation within Europe were mapped out yesterday in a report commissioned by the Scottish National Party.

The *Savage* document, *Scotland's Government - the Transition to Independence*, was hailed by the SNP as proof that Scotland could make a smooth journey to self-determination, which would not destabilise the country. A group of academics, including two SNP members, took 20 months to draw up the report, which concluded that the dissolution of the United Kingdom would not be as difficult as people have been led to believe.

They said it could be achieved with a minimum of disruption to the economy, the constitution, public services and utilities. Under detailed plans, even the monarchy would be maintained with the Queen remaining head of State in each of the successor states of the United Kingdom.

The report argued that Scotland had many of the mechanisms already in place to become independent without having to take a "leap into the unknown". It also attempted to allay fears that independence would result in acrimony

between England and Scotland, and made consensus and co-operation the cornerstone for what the authors viewed as a mutually beneficial change.

The report recommended that a body akin to a Nordic Council should be established to promote inter-state co-operation. Under current legal arrangements Scotland would stay in Europe and the only matter to be resolved would be the level of representation. Existing treaty obligations entered into by British Government would be inherited by an independent Scotland.

A draft constitution drawn up by a specially formulated commission and voted on by the electorate would provide the basis of a Scottish parliament and Scottish law with no further need to look to Westminster for legislation. Existing tax laws and rates would remain in force until altered, and pensions would transfer to the Scottish government.

Functions carried out by the Scottish Office would transfer to the new Parliament at no great extra cost. Allan Macartney, study group chairman and SNP Euro-MP, said yesterday: "The document demystifies the transition to independence."

Blair facing defeat
on Scots plebiscite

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH AND JILL SHERMAN

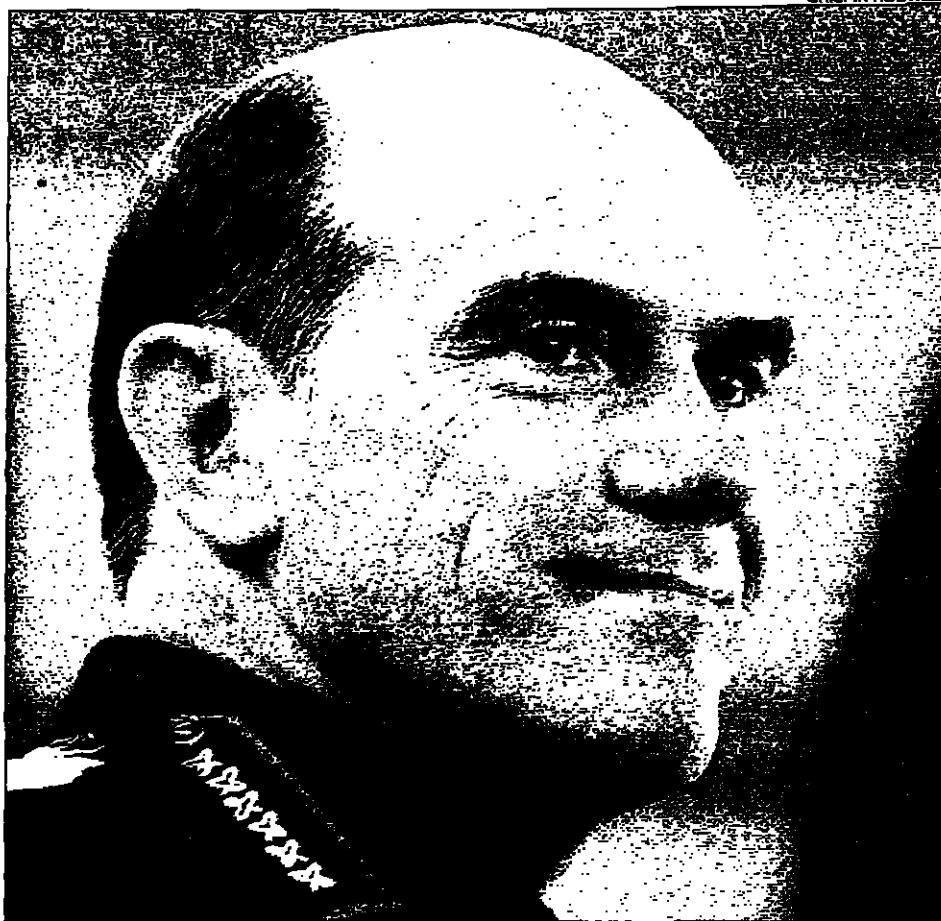
TONY BLAIR faces possible defeat today at the hands of Scottish Labour Party chiefs over his decision to hold a two-question referendum on a Scottish parliament.

The 39-member Scottish executive, which meets in Stirling today, are thought to be about evenly divided over the issue. There were signs of manoeuvring last night to try to limit the damage, should the vote go against the leader.

There were protests earlier this summer when Mr Blair announced that a Labour government would hold a referendum

on whether to introduce a Scottish parliament. He caused anger in particular when he said that there should be a separate question on whether the parliament should have tax-varying powers.

This was seen as a sign that Mr Blair was trying to renege on giving the parliament the power to raise or lower taxes by 3p, which is existing Labour policy. Those who want a single question claim that the parliament would be emasculated by a vote against tax-varying powers.



Ronnie Flanagan, credited with averting ugly disturbances this summer

New RUC chief determined
to reach out to Catholics

BY NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

RONNIE FLANAGAN, the high-flyer who was appointed yesterday as the next Chief Constable of the RUC, embodies the modernising spirit within the force that is determined to reach out to Roman Catholics.

Mr Flanagan made clear yesterday that one of his priorities would be to redress the "gross" religious imbalance in the force, which is 93 per cent Protestant.

Mr Flanagan, 47, who is married with three children, will succeed Sir Hugh Annesley in November during one of the most difficult periods in the RUC's history. Senior police officers have been criticised in the last month by nationalists and Unionists for their handling of the march in Drumcree and the subsequent riots throughout Northern Ireland.

Most observers in Belfast believe that Mr Flanagan's quiet but persistent diploma-

cy, which helped to resolve a number of disputes this year, provides one of the few hopes for next year's marching season. Earlier this month Mr Flanagan was credited with averting a potentially ugly confrontation between hundreds of loyalists and nationalists in the small village of Bellaghy, Co Londonderry.

After ten hours of negotiations between the two sides, which failed to produce an agreement, a local Sinn Féin leader called for Mr Flanagan to intervene. In the early hours of the morning Mr Flanagan drove up to the village from Belfast, and within a matter of hours he had brokered a deal that allowed the loyalists to hold a limited parade.

Mr Flanagan began his remarkable rise through the ranks of the RUC as a constable in 1970. He joined the force - interrupting a degree in psychology -

because he said he believed that reforms introduced after the 1969 disturbances would provide the basis for a cross-community policing service.

Mr Flanagan was marked out as a high-flyer in 1987 when he attended the FBI National Academy Course in Washington in 1987 where he struck up a strong friendship with Pat Byrne, the new Garda Commissioner in the Irish Republic.

He was promoted to Chief Superintendent in 1990 and Assistant Chief Constable in 1992, and he took charge of the Belfast area in the last years of serious sectarian violence before the 1994 ceasefires.

Mr Flanagan took over the anti-terrorist Special Branch in 1994 before being promoted to Acting Deputy Chief Constable in 1995. He was appointed a full DCC in February this year.

Outcry at
escape
during
zoo trip

Continued from page one
than half of a three-year sentence imposed on him for gross indecency with a child.

When he vanished on Thursday, Holland was on a half day supervised visit to Chessington Zoo, part of the World of Adventure park. He was accompanied by a senior male nurse from the unit and was not handcuffed. He complained of stomach pains and vanished on his third visit to the lavatory at the nearby Monkey Puzzle public house.

Mr Freeman, chairman of the Horizon NHS Trust which runs the 30 bed unit at Abbot's Langley, said: "We do not believe Mr Holland is yet fit to return to the community and it is for that reason we are treating him in a secure environment."

"At the same time, we do have to let patients go on shopping trips and other excursions under supervision as part of their treatment," he said. Staff at the unit had decided that Holland, with a string of convictions for petty crime, was not a danger to the public and had behaved well on previous visits to zoos. But he admitted there was a potential for Holland to commit further offences against children and that the zoo had not been informed.

He said that Holland's interest in young boys was just one of a range of problems he had experienced since he began a life in hospital and psychiatric care units from the age of six.

Last night the charity Victim Support questioned whether public safety had been considered in the decision to allow the outing. Alex Wise, a spokesman, said: "It is an extraordinary decision to allow someone who has absconded before and is a recognised sex offender to visit a place with links with youngsters."

Holland appeared at Reading Crown Court in October 1994 and pleaded guilty to two offences of gross indecency with a child and two of sending an obscene communication, a letter, by post.

He was freed from prison last year and sent to the hospital unit.

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Father loses hope for son kidnapped by Khmer Rouge

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE father of Chris Howes, a British mine clearance expert, said last night that he had given up hope of his son's survival after a report that the Khmer Rouge terrorists who kidnapped him in July had murdered him.

He was speaking as the Foreign Office launched urgent inquiries in Cambodia after the Bangkok Post reported that the former British Army sapper was murdered on Thursday.

Mr Howes, 36, spurned an offer that he would be freed if he pleaded for ransom money and instead chose to stay with 28 other charity workers, who were then released. His father, Roy Howes, 68, said at his home in Bristol: "My boy went out there to save lives and ended paying with his own."

"We have given up hope. We are beginning to realise that we will probably not see our son alive again — not in this world anyway. There are hundreds of people out there in Cambodia with their arms and legs intact who wouldn't be if it wasn't for our son."

Mr Howes added that he and his wife Betty were trying to endure "dark moments". "Chris went out there to help people less fortunate and died in the process. That gives him top marks in some people's

eyes." His son, a single man who served in the Falklands War, was captured on March 26 while clearing mines in Siem Reap province for the Mines Advisory Group, a British charity.

In its report from the border town of Aranyaprathet, Thailand, the newspaper said that he was murdered at the headquarters of the Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, who is rumoured to have died recently, in Angkor Veng, a rebel stronghold further east inside Cambodia. It cited an unidentified officer of the Pol Pot hardline faction of the Khmer Rouge as the report's source.

A Foreign Office spokesman said: "We have heard the report he may have been killed. The Cambodian authorities

are seeking to verify it and we are pressing for further information. It's the most serious report we have received to date to suggest that he may no longer be alive, but it remains unverified. We are doing everything to assist the Cambodians in their investigations."

There has been no confirmed sighting of Mr Howes since he was kidnapped and no communication from his captors. Mr Howes, who was working for the British charity Mines Advisory Group, was said to have been killed after a power struggle between loyalists of Pol Pot, leader of the infamous Khmer Rouge in the 1970s, and a breakaway faction led by Jeng Sary that is negotiating peace with the Government.

Mr Howes had been on a mission to clear mines near the temple complex at Angkor Wat, one of Cambodia's leading tourist attractions, when he and a team of workers were seized. He and his interpreter were held and the others were quickly released.

Cambodian officials cited intelligence sources in June as saying he had been forced to use his knowledge of explosives to make mines for the terrorists. Last month Cheap Vichit, a member of the Khmer Rouge, who confessed to kidnapping him, was sentenced to five years in prison.



Howes was clearing mines in Cambodia



Channel Tunnel smuggler jailed

By PETER FOSTER

A STUDENT who hoped to make a fortune by becoming the first person to smuggle cocaine through the Channel Tunnel was jailed for 11 years yesterday.

Stanley Aspinall, 19, from Clapham, southwest London, was arrested at Waterloo International station on June 13 with about £527,000 worth of the drug concealed in his suitcase. The court was told that the teenager, who admitted one count of smuggling, had saved up to fly to Thailand to buy the cocaine in Bangkok.

He intended to travel to Mexico and then the US to sell the consignment but changed his mind and decided to return home via Paris and the Channel Tunnel.

James Lachovic, for the prosecution, said Customs officers believed it to be the first smuggling case of its kind on Eurostar. As soon as a customs officer sliced through the lining of Aspinall's suitcase after finding the secret compartment built in the lid, a stream of white powder poured out, weighing 4.18 kilos.

Passing sentence at Southwark Crown Court, Judge Rivlin said: "Everything that is known about this case, including your globe-trotting to obtain these drugs, suggests you were part of a major drugs enterprise dealing in an extremely potent and dangerous drug."

Cast joins actor after Globe's little drama

AN ACTOR who took his profession's traditional good-luck wish literally by breaking a leg returned to the cast of London's Globe Theatre last night with a cast of his own.

George Innes, whose accident happened at the final rehearsal before the opening of the recreated Shakespeare theatre at Southwark, was

allowed out of hospital on Thursday. With the compound fracture held in place with seven pins, he was not fit for a walk-on part. Instead he played his role from a wheel-

chair. As Antonio in the modern-dress production of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*, Mr Innes had originally appeared with a cane, so his regression to a wheelchair

seemed almost natural. "I think people will accept a wheelchair," he said, "but it was the director's decision to let me go on." There are precedents. Elizabeth Taylor played *Little Foxes* from a wheelchair at the New Victoria Theatre for several weeks in the early 1960s.

Theatre reviews, pages 13, 15

Yachtsmen may be prosecuted for storm in a teacup

By PAUL WILKINSON

TWO yachtsmen who sparked a search and rescue operation, when one of them activated a mayday alarm as they argued during a storm in the North Sea could face prosecution.

The rescue operation began when a satellite-picked-up distress signals from the yacht. An RAF Sea King helicopter was scrambled and an oil rig support vessel diverted to the *Tina Louise*, but when the rescuers arrived they found that the two-man crew had simply been arguing and one of them was seasick and wanted to get off.

Now Ted Lawson and James Turner could face prosecution for wasting several thousand pounds on the rescue. They also had to continue their voyage together for another 24 hours when the rescuers agreed it was too dangerous to pick up a man who was not in danger.

The Aberdeen coastguard said that the incident on Thursday morning was a false alarm without good intent: "It seemed the people on the yacht had a blazing row and one didn't want to stay so he deliberately activated the emergency beacon."

The helicopter crew had flown from RAF Boulmer in Northumberland to the yacht 75 miles off Aberdeen. The 1,400-tonne support vessel *Cornelia Viking* was diverted from oil field duties.

"They were not best pleased when they discovered there was no real emergency," the coastguard spokesman said. "One of the men asked to be taken off immediately, but because of the prevailing weather conditions they refused and instead the helicopter dropped a spare lifebelt."

A report on the incident is being prepared by coastguard officials, who will interview the men. The spokesman said: "It costs £2,000 an hour to operate a Sea King. This

helicopter was airborne for three hours.

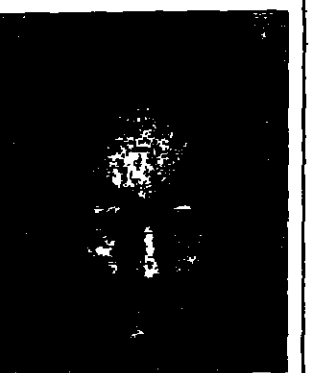
"People do not realise the cost to the public purse and the resources wasted in incidents like this. Occasionally they are reminded by being taken to court."

Yesterday, as Mr Lawson, 63, skipper of the 32ft yacht, docked at his home port of Amble on the Northumberland coast, he blamed Mr Turner for panicking in the 30 knot winds and 15ft seas.

He said that he had wanted to weather the storm and not activate the automatic radio distress signal. "Mr Turner became very frightened and distressed by the bad weather and was making himself sick with worry," he said.

"He wanted to get off the yacht but I have far more experience in sailing and was against it. In the end I could not stop him making the distress signal and I didn't think it was wise to try and prevent him physically." The men were on the 320-mile return leg of a voyage to an island off Norway.

Mr Turner, a retired coal miner, from Alnmouth, Northumberland, would say only that it was the first time they had been on a sea trip together and that they hardly knew each other.



Lawson said he wanted to weather the storm

Boy, 9, hit in petrol bomb attack

By PAUL WILKINSON

A BOY aged 9 is likely to be scarred for life after a gang of teenagers hit him with a petrol bomb in an apparently motiveless attack.

Shaun Hackett was walking along the street with a friend near his home in Sunderland, Tyne and Wear, when he was hit by the home-made device. Police investigating the attack on Wednesday said: "This boy did not even know they were there. He had done nothing to provoke such a vicious attack. The bottle hit him square in the middle of the back and exploded into flames. He was completely engulfed."

Police said that the gang of three boys aged 14 or 15 then ran away. They did nothing to alert the emergency services or to help.

The intensity of the flames melted the Sunderland football shirt the boy was wearing and, in spite of emergency treatment by surgeons lasting several hours, parts of the material is still attached to his back.

Shaun said: "The first thing I knew was when the bottle hit my back. I never saw who did it because they ran off quickly. It was really hurting and I could feel my back burning so I just grabbed at my top and ripped it off as quickly as I could."

His mother Pat, 38, said: "Whoever did this wants locking up. This could have had a tragic ending. Shaun's back is covered in bandages and he's going to need regular hospital checks."

David Alexander, 10, his companion, said: "We passed these older lads by a conker tree. When we got past them I heard a shout and saw one of them throw a ball of fire. It hit Shaun. His top was on fire and he tried to get it off. He was screaming 'Put me out, put me out.'"

Refund for nappy worker who was left holding baby

A HUSBAND has received a £4,500 refund from the Child Support Agency after six years of paying towards a child that was not his. Barry Jackson said that he had paid the money only to stop his wife discovering that he had been accused of an affair at the nappy factory where he works.

Mr Jackson, 37, of Sale, Greater Manchester, had been wrongly named as the father of a colleague's child. He denies having a relationship with the woman but was so scared that his wife Jacqueline would believe the authorities rather than him that he decided to pay the cash without telling her. It was

only in August last year, when the CSA tried to increase his payments to £134 a week, that his wife discovered the reason for their increasing financial problems. Mr Jackson said that it was only since then that he discovered he could take a DNA test to prove his innocence.

The tests showed in June that he could not have been the father of the child. His refund of £4,552 arrived this week. Yesterday he said: "When this woman said I was the father of the child, I thought she was joking and didn't take much notice of it."

When the CSA became involved, he hid his dilemma:

"I thought my wife would think there's no smoke without fire. I had a lot to lose — my house and three kids."

He began paying £5 and then £10 a week. But as CSA cash demands spiralled, he sold his car and found himself borrowing from family and friends to make ends meet. He wrongly thought that the alternative was an embarrassing court hearing.

A spokesman for the CSA said: "When the agency has made a mistake we apologise. If a client feels they have suffered immeasurable loss as a result of a financial mistake, they should make a claim for compensation and we will have a look at it."

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JACK DANIEL'S TENNESSEE WHISKEY

French send calves to die in Britain for EU handout

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

NEWBORN French calves are being shipped to Britain in their hundreds to be slaughtered under a subsidy scheme intended to compensate British dairy farmers for income losses caused by "mad cow" disease.

The Labour Party and animal welfare groups said they were appalled by the trade and called on the Government to stop it. The Ministry of Agriculture said: "are raising this matter with the European Commission. But there is nothing illegal about the imports under the free-trade rules of the European Union's single market."

Several hundred French calves have arrived through Dover over the past few weeks in a reversal of the trade in British veal calves to the Continent which last year brought thousands of protesters on to the streets. But the French calves are not for rearing or eating. They are taken straight to an abattoir to be slaughtered.

The carcasses are rendered and incinerated. Provided the animals are less than 20 days old, they qualify for an EU subsidy of £103 a head. The subsidy was introduced in April after British beef exports were banned in response to the Government's disclosure of a possible link between Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease in humans and eating beef contaminated by BSE. Before the ban, dairy farmers had been exporting up to 450,000 calves

a year to the Continent for veal production, a trade worth about £45 million.

The animals were mainly surplus male calves for which there is no market here. British farmers, with the export market closed, have sent some 151,000 calves to slaughter under the Calf Processing Scheme to claim the subsidy, which is shared with the abattoir operator.

The man behind the import of French calves is David Muir, a leading livestock dealer based near Oxford. He says he is merely trying to save a business virtually destroyed overnight by the beef ban.

"Some people are trying to portray me as an unscrupulous cattle dealer, but I have to make living," he said. "Since

the ban I have had to lay off the 18 people I had working for me and get rid of seven of my ten lorries. I desperately need the work."

Mr Muir said that he got £5 of the £103 subsidy per animal as commission. About £80 went to the French farmer and the rest to the abattoir. He began shipping calves several weeks ago and his latest consignment of 200 arrived at Dover from Dunkirk yesterday. "The French have just as much need of this subsidy as the British," he said. "French cattle prices have been driven down by the BSE scare and £80 is a better price than they can get on their local markets."

Elliot Morley, Labour's spokesman on rural affairs and animal welfare, said the Government must act to stop the trade. Philip Lymbery of Compassion in World Farming, which led last year's protests against the veal trade, said he was "appalled at this slaughter of the innocents."

Mr Morley said: "The subsidy was put in place to help British farmers. It is being funded very largely by British taxpayers and it is not designed to line the pockets of people dragging calves over here from mainland Europe."

The Ministry of Agriculture said the subsidy came out of the EU budget and would be mostly paid for by taxpayers in other states.

Paris protest, page 9

Mother, 14 is denied school crèche

EDUCATION chiefs yesterday ruled out sending a 14-year-old mother to a mother and baby education unit outside her home county. They said they could not afford to pay for a place for Sarah Grocott and were already offering her a full education.

Sarah refused to return to Brownhills High School near her home in Stoke-on-Trent after the birth of her son Jake unless the school provided crèche facilities.

Staffordshire education authority said a day nursery place could probably be found for nine-month-old Jake if Sarah agreed to return to school. But the authority, which does not have its own mother and baby education unit, said it did not believe that sending Sarah away to a similar unit elsewhere would be in her best interests.

Phil Ford, of the county council, said: "It would prove difficult to pay for a place in another area in terms of the budget. At the end of the day we as a local education authority are perfectly capable of providing adequate education right here in Staffordshire. That is, of course, if the mother takes advantage of the opportunity open to her. I don't believe we have ever had a situation like this."

Sarah received home tuition during her pregnancy. Now she says she will not start the new term back at her old school unless the education authority sets up child care facilities there. Carol and Keith Grocott, her parents, are supporting their daughter's stand.



Sarah and her son Jake. She will only return to school if a crèche is installed

Two more famous warships sold to Brazil

By MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO Royal Navy frigates that have played dominant roles in war and peace were handed over to the Brazilian navy yesterday in the latest second-hand arms sale.

HMS Brilliant and HMS Brazen, Type 22 frigates, have been sold to Brazil as part of a four-ship arms package. HMS Broadsword was handed over last year and HMS Battledore is due to be sold to the Brazilians next year.

The sale of older warships and the orders for new Type 23 frigates will mean that the Royal Navy will retain a frigate/destroyer force of about 35, as promised by the Government under the 1990 "Options for Change" defence programme.

HMS Brilliant, handed over to the Brazilians in a ceremony at Plymouth yesterday, is the more famous of the two warships because of her recent star role in a BBC television documentary about the Royal Navy. The frigate was also nicknamed "loveboat" in 1990 after becoming the first warship to sail with 16 Wrens after a Government decision to end the tradition of all-male crews at sea. She was launched in 1978 and took part in the Falklands conflict in 1982, providing defensive air cover.

HMS Brazen, which, like her sister ship, is armed with Sea Wolf and Exocet missiles, was best known when the Duke of York served on the frigate as a Lynx helicopter pilot from 1984 to 1986. HMS Brazen also served in the Gulf War. In 1991 Lynx helicopters from the frigate and other Royal Navy warships sank five Iraqi missile patrol boats.

The most embarrassing moment for HMS Brazen was in September 1994 when she ran aground on a rock and sand bank off southern Chile, while returning from the South Atlantic. Commander Paul Collins, then the ship's captain, accepted the blame at a court martial hearing but remained in the navy. The two redundant warships will now begin a new career, renamed after Brazilian admirals.

Forecast, page 26

Fry takes break from Wilde life

By CAROL MIDDLEY

SHOOTING on Stephen Fry's new feature film about Oscar Wilde had to be rescheduled yesterday after the actor said he needed hospital treatment for a skin complaint. The £6 million film, *Wilde*, is the actor's first major role since he walked out of the West End play *Cell Mates* last year due to stress.

Fry, who is playing the lead role, had been due to film a scene in which the writer attends a performance of one of his own plays. The

filming has now been rescheduled to next Tuesday.

Fry was said to be physically fit and his health problem a minor one. A spokesman for the film, which is being made by Samuelson Productions, said: "He has had this minor skin problem he wanted to sort out. It is just something that was a bit uncomfortable. It was decided that because he is not due back on the set until next Tuesday that with very minor adjustments to today's schedule, they could give him a break to sort it out."

The film is being directed by Brian Gilbert, who made the Oscar-nominated *Tom and Viv*, and is expected to be released in Britain between May and autumn 1997. Filming started a few days ago.

The actor has been revelling in the role of the homosexual wit who penned *The Importance of Being Ernest* and scandalised Victorian society. The spokesman said: "I saw him earlier in the week and he was really enjoying himself. I think everyone is very keen on the way it is turning out."

Barriers raised in flood alert

By NICK NUTTALL
ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FLOOD barriers will be on alert on Humber and at Sheerness on the Thames estuary today to prevent flooding in Hull and parts of the South East.

Despite an improvement in the weather, the Environment Agency said that Hull was facing a record spring tide of up to two metres higher than normal for the time of year. The steel flood barrier, which protects the city from tidal surges

running up the Humber into the river Hull, has been closed.

Yesterday afternoon two smaller barriers on the Thames estuary at Dartford Creek and Sheerness were also shut. The agency warned that there could be minor flooding as far as Putney in southwest London.

The alerts came as figures issued yesterday by the Meteorological Office showed that for the second summer running the South East had less rain than parts of the Mediterranean. London has been drier than Rome, Lisbon and Istanbul with just 84mm of rain falling between April and July.

Dr Peter Spillet, Thames Water's environment and quality manager, said: "Between April and July we received two thirds of the rainfall of Istanbul and only half that of Rome and Lisbon."

But he said that despite heavy demand, the company was reducing the amount it takes from the Thames over the coming days to help salmon to get up river on their return from the Atlantic.

Forecast, page 26



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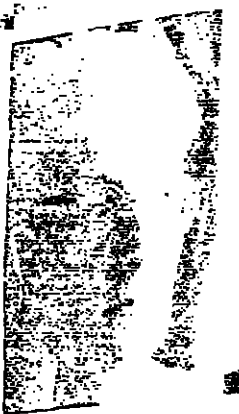
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Driver loses Rolex in latest attack by rush-hour raiders

By STEPHEN FARRELL

MASKED robbers armed with knives snatched a driver's £16,000 Rolex from his wrist after smashing the windows of his Range Rover in rush-hour traffic. The daylight raid was one of the most violent in a spate of road robberies of drivers stuck in queues at traffic lights or road junctions.

The thieves slashed the driver's wife's wrist in a failed attempt to steal her Rolex, then fled through Earls Court, west London, chased by motorists and plain clothes police. Detectives believe the attack is the work of a gang which steals expensive watches. One man was arrested; another escaped. Up to three others may be involved.

West London has been plagued by juvenile thieves who move across the main thoroughfares in west London as police target problem zones with video surveillance and undercover patrols. The latest attack was in the West Cromwell Road at 6.40pm on Thursday, as the couple drove their blue Range Rover home to Barnes, southwest London.

The two attackers, who were masked with hoods, approached the driver's side. One suspect smashed the driver's window and threatened the couple with a knife. A violent struggle ensued as the attackers leant right into the car and slashed the woman's wrist and the palm of her hand with a knife, a Scotland Yard spokesman said.

The driver lost his watch, but the woman's fell beside her seat. The attackers darted

across the eastbound carriage-way and fled without waiting to retrieve it. They were chased by the motorist in front of the Range Rover, who beat one of the men with his umbrella. The Range Rover's driver then set off his car alarm and gave chase himself, joined by three South African tourists and police. The two victims, in their forties, were not seriously injured but were treated for shock.

One of the suspects, aged 20, was arrested at Earls Court Underground station. He was being questioned by police last night. The other, a Mediterranean-looking man aged about 20, 5ft 6in, and wearing a black hood pulled over his face, escaped.

Detective Constable Philip Stebbings, leading the investigation, said: "This is an extremely well-organised team. We think the victims were picked at random by this gang, who were in a car, driving around looking for people with expensive watches."

Carjackers and street muggers are now experts in identifying, at a glance, whether a victim is wearing a £1,400 bottom of the range steel Rolex Oyster or a sought-after model embellished with diamonds costing up to £100,000. Stolen watches are often sold for drugs, or on to a fence who may get £2,000 to £3,000. They end up at auctions, dubious dealers or being offered "second-hand" in pubs.

The theft itself takes seconds. Gangs, usually operat-

ing in pairs and aged between 14 and 23, accost the victim on the pavement, in the driver's seat or as they climb from their car. The violence is swift and effective — as one thief puts the owner in an arm or headlock, the other wrenches the watch down the arm, forcing open the bracelet.

Police in affluent districts of London see two or three cases a week, although the numbers are down from last year when police used decoy squads of undercover officers wearing counterfeit watches supplied by Rolex. Sergeant Richard Varley, of Hampstead CID, northwest London, confirmed that stealing Rolex watches constituted the "livelihood" of many thieves in the area. "The actual thief probably gets only about a tenth of the value, but they are almost a currency in their own right. They turn up all over Europe."

Leading article, page 17



Portable wealth that becomes conspicuous at the flick of a wrist: the instantly recognisable Rolex watch

Faked by many, now taken by force

By GRACE BRADBERRY

INSTANTLY recognisable, extremely expensive and, arguably, vulgar, the Rolex watch has become one of the world's most famous status symbols. It is a portable sign of wealth, that can be displayed with a flick of the wrist.

Most people's idea of a Rolex is the Oyster. Invented in 1926, it was the first truly waterproof watch. Even today it has a claim to being the nearest thing to an indestructible watch that money can buy, being cut from a single block of metal.

Not surprisingly, the Oyster has been endlessly faked. Yet the indestructibility of the real thing has given it a lasting

value, and guaranteed a high second-hand price. No matter how many good imitations flood the market, the real thing remains worth stealing.

There are a number of features that contribute to the Rolex's covetability. Each watch has a chronometer rating, which means it has been independently tested at different temperatures, altitudes, and angles. The smooth movement of the hands is another part of the appeal. Rolex watches are all mechanical, but with a self-winding rotor, originally invented in 1931 and called the Perpetual.

Prices for the Rolex Oyster range from about £1,500 to £50,000 for the most desirable. While the basic models come

in steel, the most expensive would be in 18-carat gold or platinum, and might be decorated with diamonds.

However, it is the Daytona that is coveted by the cognoscenti — not least because it is so difficult to buy one. "It is not actually that expensive, but Rolex doesn't churn out many so you can wait anything up to five years for one," Kate Pearson of Hamilton and Inches, the Edinburgh-based Royal Jewellers, said. "You have to go along to a jeweller's, put yourself on a waiting list, and hope."

So who actually buys Rolexes? To put it in a nutshell, it's the nouveau riche," Ms Pearson said. "You wouldn't get aristocrats coming in for them. They would probably buy a Patek Philippe."

THE SUNDAY TIMES HEARTBEAT



He never named Echo McGuire in the songs he wrote about her; but the bittersweet memories of loving her and, over time, gradually losing her were the inspiration of the masterpieces that are still so potent today. Echo was the girl in his heart, not Peggy Sue.

Philip Norman on the true story behind the heartache of Buddy Holly

Exclusive in THE SUNDAY TIMES tomorrow

Hijack women's refugee ordeal

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

SIX Iraqi women detained at Stansted after the hijacked airliner landed have spent four months trying to flee Saddam Hussein's regime, their solicitor said yesterday.

But David Watts, a lawyer in Colchester where they were interviewed by police before being released, said none of them had known of the impending hijack of the Sudan Airways flight.

He spoke after the Sudanese hostages, who spent three days at the Essex airport, were allowed to fly home.

Detectives continued to question seven Iraqis at Harlow police station where they were expected to be charged and appear before magistrates today.

One of the women, who is with her daughter, aged eight, and son, aged five, is married to one of the seven Iraqi men allegedly responsible for the hijacking of the Khartoum to Amman flight.

Another woman, aged 38, is said to have had her husband and two of her sons murdered by the security services after the Basra uprising against Saddam in 1991. This prompted her to seek the family's escape. All six women are being held at at Gatwick where they have applied for asylum.

A seven-year-old boy hostage, who was flying to Amman for the removal of a life-threatening tumour, is to be operated on at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, next week.

The hospital, which is also looking after his mother, said it would be carrying out the operation for humanitarian reasons and without charge.

Policeman faces jail for road rage attack

By A STAFF REPORTER

A 16-STONE policeman was given a two-week jail sentence yesterday for a "road rage" attack on a bricklayer who followed his police car.

PC Andrew Hamilton, 28, was pursuing a motorcycle when he clashed with 30-year-old Darren Monti in Cheshunt, Hertfordshire. The officer, who had his blue light flashing, made a gesture to Monti, who followed him, returning the gestures and flashing his headlights.

The PC stopped, dragged Mr Monti from his car, frogmarched him across a busy road and slammed him into a wall, it was claimed at Bow Street Court in central London.

PC Hamilton who has 9½ years' service and an unblemished record with the Metropolitan Police, denied assaulting the motorist and said he had simply laid a hand on his chest to keep him at arm's length after he had sprung from his car.

Passing sentence, the magistrate Mrs Lorraine Morgan said: "I am dealing with a matter known as road rage. This offence is one of such seriousness that it must be marked by a custodial sentence."

PC Hamilton, who is based at Edmonton Police Station, had said it was Mr Monti who had lost his temper. "The speed and eagerness with which he was getting out of the car, and what he had been doing, made me put my arm out to keep him at arm's length for my own safety."

The magistrate agreed to grant bail, pending an appeal hearing against conviction next week.

Isle of Wight beach is occupied by Germans

By ROBIN YOUNG

A GROUP of German tourists has incensed the Isle of Wight by flagging off a section of beach for a private party. The Germans produced plastic markers to delineate the area they intended to occupy, regardless of local bathers' belongings already left there.

Terry Reaney, a retired engineer from Ryde, had been paddling and building sand castles with his son and four-year-old grandson. "My son spread a beach towel and walked his son down the beach to paddle," Mr Reaney said. "On returning to his belongings he found a large area flagged with plastic markers. His effects were

inside the area." As they hesitated, two Germans walked up and told them to vacate the area because it was for a private party.

For John Ritchie, former mayor of Ryde and veteran of the Normandy landings, the German occupation was too much. "I cannot believe the nerve of these people. How dare they come here and flag off a public beach?"

Isle of Wight Council said the land was Crown property and leased to the local authority. "Nobody has a territorial right," a spokesman said.

Dinosaur graveyard, Weekend, page 19

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THE DIFFERENCE IS
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Top girls' schools call in counsellors to help with stress

By DAVID CHARTER, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GIRLS' schools that dominate today's GCSE examination tables are turning to professional counsellors to help pupils to cope with the pressure to succeed.

Head teachers said that girls were under greater stress than any previous generation. Fierce competition for places at top universities was putting high levels of strain on pupils, who also had to cope with unprecedented pressure to be slim, attractive and popular.

The steady rise in examination pass rates, which has led some critics to suggest they are getting easier, has only increased the need for teenagers to work hard for the grades needed for oversubscribed university courses.

Jean Scott, headmistress at South Hampstead High School in north London, where girls earned a top-20 place for the number of A grades at GCSE, said she appointed an outside counsellor at the girls' request for the first time this year. "There is increasing pressure on them. One can see that over the past ten years easily," she said.

"There has been an enormous change with the increase in the number of people going to university. Places are becoming more sought after at the prestigious universities and courses such as medicine, law, English and history are very oversubscribed, and the girls want those places."

She added: "We work terribly hard to defuse stress and play it down. We have a lot of pastoral support to help them and a lady who comes in once a week."

The girls requested it and like having her. It is totally confidential. I think a lot of independent and state schools have a counsellor coming in because it helps to have someone from outside the school whom people can refer themselves to. "Girls raised a range

of issues with the counsellor, not necessarily academic worries, which were usually discussed with teaching staff, she said.

Margaret Rudland, president of the Girls' Schools Association, said: "Most schools have got a counsellor of one kind or other. Mrs Scott is right to say young people are under all sorts of pressures, and peer pressure is one of the greatest. You have got to achieve a balance and it has to be very carefully managed by the teaching staff. You want to motivate young people but you don't want to make the examination the be-all and end-all."

She appointed a visiting counsellor at her own school, Godolphin and Laymer in west London, two years ago. "Appointments are entirely confidential and it is self-referral, so I don't know who goes. A range of issues are raised with the counsellor. Work pressures are there but



Jean Scott, the headmistress of South Hampstead High School, who feels that strains on high-achieving girls are greater than ever

it is also quite often family concerns and concerns about growing up."

Judith Goodland, headmistress of Wycombe Abbey School in Buckinghamshire, which came second in this year's GCSE table, said

boarding schools like hers had provided professional counsellors for several years. "There is a strong emphasis on pastoral care because the girls are away from home. We have a lady who comes in at the weekend and is there for

anyone to go to in confidence. "She added: "Teenage is a very difficult time for everyone, however calm your life is. Everybody's human and needs a helping hand."

□ Laura Bramall, 10, will be in a class of her own next week when she becomes the first and only girl to join Westbourne School, Sheffield's oldest independent preparatory school. Laura, who has spent a few trial days with the boys, said: "I don't mind being the only girl. The teach-

ers are so friendly and helpful. I don't think there will be any problems. But I would like to see other girls going to the school. They don't know what they are missing."

GCSE tables, page 43

School love triangle of suicide teacher

By A STAFF REPORTER

A POPULAR teacher killed himself after his wife left him for another master at the school where they all taught. She took their four children with her.

Nigel Harper-Tarr, 44, a geography teacher, stayed away from the staffroom because he could not bear to see the lovers together. Instead, he spent hours in his office.

When he could not face returning to school after the Easter holidays, he left letters to his wife and children, and died in his fume-filled Volvo with a picture of his wife Pauline holding a baby beside him. Their wedding video had been left out in the lounge of their detached home in Brackley, Northamptonshire.

Yesterday Mrs Harper-Tarr, 41, said that he had been "a wonderful man, a wonderful father and a wonderful husband". In a statement read

to the hearing at Northampton, the widow said she had first met her husband while teaching together at Magdalene College School in Brackley.

They married in 1978 but the "happy marriage" began to fall apart when she "developed a friendship with a colleague and family friend". It was Stephen Pogson, a music teacher.

She said: "As the relation-

ship became closer, Nigel became depressed. We began to argue regularly and he became verbally abusive. He became obsessed with my friendship with Stephen. I explained that my feelings for Stephen were stronger than they should be."

Her husband repeatedly threatened to end his life. Twice Mrs Harper-Tarr called the police for help, and once he

was treated for an overdose of Temazepam. At the beginning of January, he moved out of the family home and went to live in single teacher's housing. In March he returned, and his wife took the children and moved into her lover's home a mile away. She said: "He said he would kill himself. He said it was the only way of dealing with the situation. He said he had given himself until Easter to see if I

would return." A neighbour, Jane Webb, spent hours trying to comfort him. She said: "He found it very difficult at school. He was very down and crying."

His body was found on April 14, when Mrs Webb's husband called at the house with a Sunday paper as an excuse of checking on his troubled friend. There were letters to the children, Amy, ten, Thomas, nine, Kate, seven, and Alice, five.

He had been due back at Magdalene College, where he was head of Years 10 and 11, for the start of the new term the next day. Recording a verdict of suicide, the coroner Rodney Haig said: "Quite clearly his life fell apart because, after 17 years of happy marriage, his wife formed a close relationship with a work colleague."

After the hearing, Mrs Harper-Tarr said she was still with Mr Pogson, 44, a divorced father-of-two. She said: "That is all I want to say."



Nigel Harper-Tarr, his wife Pauline, and their colleague Stephen Pogson

War film based on lawyer's script is tipped for prize

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

TEN years ago, a Scottish lawyer witnessed the Nicaraguan civil war and felt compelled to write of the horrors he saw. On Monday, a film directed by Ken Loach with his screenplay will be premiered at the Venice Film Festival.

Paul Lavery, 39, who practised in Glasgow before going to work for a human rights group in Nicaragua, had never written a script before and had no contacts in the film industry. He wrote to Loach "out of the blue" with the idea. He felt that the British director, celebrated for his realist portrayals of the human plight and of social and political struggles, such as *Cathy Come Home* and *Land and Freedom*, the prize-winning study of the Spanish Civil War, would be sympathetic.

Lavery had written pieces for human rights groups. "Eventually, I decided, 'I've got to try and get a story out to a bigger audience.' In my naivety, I decided I would try and write a film script." Loach was inspired by it, and the film is tipped for prizes.

Carla's Song, shot in Glasgow and Nicaragua, focuses on the relationship between George, a "free-spirited" Scottish bus-driver, and Carla, a Nicaraguan refugee living in Glasgow. It is set

in 1987, when the US-backed Contra guerrillas were intensifying their assault on the left-wing Sandinista regime.

During nearly three years in Nicaragua, Lavery witnessed the destruction of villages and hospitals. He spoke to people whose loved ones were raped and murdered: to "so many individuals whose lives were destroyed".

Sally Hibbin, who has worked on many Loach films, produced the movie, a Parallax Pictures production for Channel Four Films. Describing it as "a love story and a war story", she said that using actors and technicians who had lived through the war made the production particularly moving. One camera-

man scouting for shooting locations, began crying as they neared a bridge his brother had been killed there. "The emotions you see are genuine," she said.

As before, Loach used professionals and those with little or no acting experience. The lead actress, Oyanka Cabezas, 24, a dancer, had to learn English for the part.

It was the first major film to be made in Nicaragua since the centre-right anti-Sandinista coalition had come to power in 1990 in elections. Despite Loach's socialism, the country's authorities had helped the film-makers, waiving import duties on cameras. "We couldn't have made [the film] without the support of government departments. They were very supportive despite the content of the film."

"They decided that any film in Nicaragua was a good film to have there and that, as a democratic country, they couldn't be censorious. They knew who we were and where we were coming from — the kinds of films we'd done."

The Government had felt the film would revive interest in Nicaragua. "The Government's policy is one of reconciliation with the past."

Lavery has given up his career and is already working on another script with Loach.



Loach: directed film on Nicaraguan war

Solicitors to respond faster to complaint

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of the public with criticisms about solicitors' work will receive an initial response within 24 hours under proposals published yesterday to deal with complaints.

The move to streamline the complaints system comes after growing criticism from consumers about the way solicitors deal with complaints from clients and a warning, unless it improves, pressure would increase for a fully independent scheme.

Staff are to be ordered to be more open with the public, make greater use of telephones in contacting complainants and to write letters in plain English rather than in legalistic language. Advertisements are to be placed in the media for ten lay people to join a committee dealing with the supervision of the profession.

Peter Ross, director of the Office for Supervision of Solicitors, which begins work on Monday, said that there had been inactivity and delay in dealing with complaints. He said that the previous Solicitors' Complaints Bureau had failed to keep pace with the expectations of solicitors and their clients. "We need to be quicker in responding to complaints and more open," he said.

Mr Ross promised that he would conduct a review of sanctions that can be imposed on solicitors who fail to uphold standards, and he promised to publish a set of performance targets against which the new body's work could be measured.

Earlier this year the Legal Service Ombudsman said that unless solicitors improved the way they dealt with complaints, pressure for an independent scheme would become irresistible. Research carried out for the Ombudsman found that two out of three complainants to the Solicitors' Complaints Bureau were very dissatisfied with the outcome.

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FROM JOHN CARR IN ATHENS AND PAUL WILKINSON

the search because they thought he might have "gone on a philandering trip".

Mrs Randall, a teacher, and Tom have returned to their home in Sheffield. She said yesterday: "It is my last hope to appeal to people going on holiday to Greece or other places in that area to look out for him. He is very distinctive. He is 6ft 6ins with silvery white hair and by now he probably will have a white stubbly beard."

Local people later told Mrs Randall that the short cut to the fort which her husband had taken was perilous, with poisonous snakes and old unexploded bombs, described as "foolish" his setting out in intense heat. He was in a happy frame of mind.

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Mrs Randall, 43, an electronics and computer expert, has been involved in research at



missing husband, Colin

Mrs Randall said: "I don't know what could have happened to him. He could have had an accident or he could be wandering around having lost his memory or he may have just flipped. But I have no idea why. We were enjoying our holiday very much."

"He was very busy with different work projects and we had talked about him giving up the lottery job, but he was not worried or depressed."

"He likes to explore on

holiday and he tends to go off the obvious track, so I thought he'd had an accident or a heart attack. But that outcome seems increasingly unlikely. I believe he is alive and wandering somewhere. He's obviously in a poor frame of mind and mentally disturbed in some way, perhaps because of the sun."

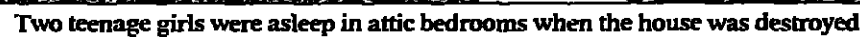
Kefallinia police said: "We just don't know what could have happened to him." Forces around Greece as well as Interpol had been alerted and the search was continuing.

BY PETER FOSTER

The girl and a friend, both aged 14, were in the attic bedrooms of a two-storey Victorian house in Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire, when the blast, believed to have been caused by a gas leak, lifted off the roof. Firefighters worked for two and a half hours to free Melanie Jordan from the rubble before she was taken to Hemel Hempstead General Hospital with minor injuries to her back and legs. A surgeon and nurse were sent to the blast site to help the girl during the rescue.

Her friend, Helen Sibley, left hospital after treatment for cuts and scrapes. Two adults, Carolyn Welsh, 39, and Randall Bell, 43, also escaped from the house with minor injuries.

A neighbour, John Hazzard, said he had smelt gas at around 7.50am yesterday followed by the explosion shortly after 8am. He had



of the house had gone swimming at his local pool when the explosion happened. William Hall, 43, returned to find his house flattened.

A newly-wed couple living opposite, Theron and Chris Hughes, both 35, were in bed when they felt the blast. Theron said: "The whole room shook and the bed moved." British Gas sealed

off the gas supply to the area. A spokesman said that no warning had been received of a gas leak.

The Health and Safety Executive and British Gas are to investigate the cause of the blast. Rescuers were still searching last night for the household's ginger cat. Rosie, missing since the blast.

A part-time fireman has been found hanged after suffering emotional trauma over a crash in which he witnessed nine months ago, Richard Bobek, 41, was among the first crews called to the accident in which five people were decapitated at Castle-Ar-Dinäs, near Newquay, Cornwall. Mr Bobek, a builder who was married with two young daughters, was found dead at St Lawrence's psychiatric hospital, Bodmin, where he had been admitted earlier this week. All the emergency services who helped at the accident had been offered counselling.

Mohammed Safda, 25, of Whitechapel, east London, a disqualified driver who left one man dead and eight injured during a police chase last September, was jailed for five years yesterday.

Thieves broke into a church in Leinthall Starks, Hereford & Worcester, and stole a strong-box containing registers listing every baptism, marriage and funeral at St Mary Magdalene since the 18th century.

Glyn Jones and his wife June have abandoned their holiday in Swansea and returned by train to their home in Greenford, west London, after their car was stolen three times in 24 hours there.

A milkman driving his float at 7mph was more than four times over the drink-drive limit. Gary Palmer, 40, of Swanage, Dorset, was given 180 hours' community service and banned for three years.

A passer-by who helped a mother with two children on to a train at King's Cross was stranded for 194 miles when the automatic doors closed. Stuart Carter, 41, from Bristol, found it was non-stop to York.

The T-shirt offer mentioned on page 1 of Car 96 today appears on page 10 of this section.

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

AN INDEPENDENT school has dug trenches around an encampment of 12 gypsy families who moved onto its playing fields. The Dorset school, which hopes to stop other travellers joining them, fears that it cannot evict the invaders before pupils return on Tuesday.

The gypsies camped near the rugby pitch at Canford School, Wimborne, after squeezing through a gap in the 14ft hedge surrounding the grounds. Legal moves to evict them have been started but the process is unlikely to be completed before the 540 pupils, whose fees are more than £12,000 a year, return from the summer

holiday. Canford School, founded in 1923, is set in 200 acres of meadows next to the River Stour.

It enjoyed a £7.7 million windfall last year when a 3,000-year-old Assyrian frieze was discovered on the tuckshop wall. The buildings, which date back to a medieval hall known as John of Gaunt's Kitchen, are being patrolled by security officers.

An excavator is being used to fortify the boundary and police and councillors have visited the site to start eviction proceedings under the Criminal Justice Act. There must be five days of consultation with education, health and social services before legal papers can be served order-

ing the gypsies to move on and, if necessary, a court order obtained.

The school, which caters for pupils aged from 13 to 18, is having to provide its guests with access to water and rubbish facilities. Commander Michael Chamberlain, the bursar, said: "We are concerned about the security of our buildings and our young pupils."

"The police have been as helpful as they can be but they are practically powerless in these sorts of situations. We are on good speaking terms with the gypsies and we hope they will respect our courtesy and leave soon." A spokesman for the travellers said they planned to leave *within a few days.*

RAIL workers are to stage two more strikes next month and ban overtime for a week in their dispute over productivity pay and refreshment breaks, union leaders said yesterday.

Guards, conductors, ticket and catering staff in seven operating companies will walk out for 24 hours on September 11 and 23 and will ban overtime for a week from September 16. The Rail Maritime and Transport union said yesterday that considerable progress had been made on the issue of breaks as most of

the operators had agreed to introduce a guaranteed break for staff. But the main stumbling block was productivity pay for past achievements.

The union, which accused British Rail of preventing companies from negotiating on productivity pay, is seeking a meeting with BR and the Association of Train Operating Companies to try to resolve the dispute. Vernon Hince, RMT deputy general secretary, said: "The union has had tremendous support from members in this dispute

and we believe this show of
unity and determination has

The companies involved in the dispute are CrossCountry Trains, Merseyrail, Regional Railways North East, North West Regional Railways, North London Railways, ScotRail and South Wales and West Railways. RMT members in other companies are being balloted on industrial action in similar disputes with the results due on September 12.

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Latest triumph for tireless crusader against exploitation

Priest tracks down child sex suspect who jumped bail

By DOMINIC KENNEDY

AN IRISH priest who devotes his life to saving children and women from the Philippines sex industry has helped to secure the arrest of another suspected paedophile, a German who fled the islands while awaiting trial.

Father Shay Cullen, 53, flew to Germany on his way to Sweden for the World Congress against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and lodged an official complaint against Thomas Breuer, who had been charged with child sex abuse in the Philippines. Father Cullen previously helped to track down Brent Tyler, a 30-year-old British man arrested in Manila and sent back to this country. He was jailed for life in May for murdering Daniel Handley, 9, who was kidnapped in 1994 in east London.

The priest suspected that Herr Breuer had returned to Germany after jumping bail. He and a Dutchman, who has also left the Philippines, were accused of sexually abusing two girls.

Father Cullen travelled to Hagen, Westphalia, and com-

plained to the state prosecutor. Police were only able to obtain an arrest warrant for Herr Breuer after Father Cullen promised to return to Germany with 12-year-old Pia, the child prostitute allegedly abused by the German tourist, and confirm that faxed evidence from the Philippines was official.

The priest continued to Stockholm, where he provided information about another European suspect to Interpol officers, gathering for their own child protection meeting.

After being sent by the Missionary Society of St Columban to the Philippines in 1969, Father Cullen became horrified by the effect of widespread prostitution to satisfy American sailors. "I saw the commercial sex industry and the impact it had on family life: broken-up families, children being sexually abused, all on drugs," he said.

He created Preda, originally a shelter to rehabilitate young drug-takers and abused women, which broadened its work when he discovered sailors were using youngsters for sex. The organisation plays a

leading role in investigating paedophiles, including foreign tourists who believed that police incompetence and corruption would allow them unhindered access to vulnerable street children.

Preda provided evidence against Douglas Slade, 54, a British former naval catering officer standing trial on child-molestation charges in the Philippines, and Michael Clarke, 48, an Eastbourne holiday tour operator awaiting a verdict after he allegedly told investigators that young prostitutes were available.

Father Cullen said: "If you were to talk to a paedophile on the street and have a beer with him, this would be the nicest and friendliest and most charming of people you could meet. They are not beasts and monsters. They are so nice and so good and so generous that they win the trust of children. This whole masquerade of deception is a very hateful and evil thing."

His campaigning work has made him enemies. He was beaten by the police for protesting against power cables being erected outside a home



Cullen: warned of "masquerade of deception"

for abused children and faces death threats because of his opposition to European bar owners whose businesses are a front for child prostitution.

Father Cullen attributes his hatred of child cruelty to the physical punishments and verbal abuse he suffered at the national school that he attended in Ireland. The Church supports his work, although there is anguish over the

number of priests revealed as child molesters.

Although Britons account for only 4 per cent of tourists to the Philippines, they form nearly 20 per cent of foreigners involved in alleged child sex offences. The Philippines has a similar size of population to Britain but an estimated 60,000 child prostitutes, says the United Nations Children's Fund.

How God's love helps if marriage founders

When men cease to believe in God, they do not believe in anything, as G. K. Chesterton recognised. They believe in anything.

The first half of this century saw a marked decline in belief in God: the latter part has seen an equally marked rise of a quest for spirituality that is unconnected with the churches. And the tendency is to ask: "What does it matter what you believe, as long as you are sincere?"

It matters a lot. We are profoundly formed by what we believe in. That is true of Satanists: it is true of Christians. Faith in the God revealed in the Bible has an enormous effect on how we behave.

Take one of the most central issues in any society: marriage itself. Does Christian commitment offer any practical help in the strains and stresses that beset every marriage? That is a question highlighted by current events and relevant to every home.

Let me speak frankly from my own experience. Fifteen years ago my wife and I had a period of real difficulty in our marriage. There was no massive disagreement, no wife beating, no infidelity.

No, it was simply that we found ourselves harbouring resentments and drifting apart under the pressures of a demanding job. Col-

leagues in the parish gathered round us, made us face up to the situation, and lovingly cared for us as we sought to renew those areas in our lives where love had died.

The determination to stay with our marriage vows "for better, for worse", coupled with the Christian means of grace, and the helpful ministry of others — these were the factors which led to the renewal of love, and the rebuilding of a warm and strong marriage, which has subsequently been of help to

come and ask God's pardon for where we had failed each other, and where our marriage had not been the example of the close partnership that people have a right to expect in their clergy. And we needed His love to be poured afresh into our hearts. We asked, we worked on putting each other first, and gradually the flame began to burn brightly again.

It is not easy to describe the joy of forgiveness for that drifting apart, or the strength of the bond which in due course emerged. But we have tasted the power of Christ in the most intimate aspect of daily life.

We can honestly say that our marriage is the stronger for this sad experience 15 years ago. It is conclusive proof to us that God is in the restoration business.

I am well aware that not all marriage strains can be resolved. Sometimes divorce is the least bad option in a destructive situation. But my wife and I are convinced from our own experience that renewal of married love is wonderfully possible for many a couple if the partners are prepared to work at it, and call on the help of the living God.

□ The Rev Dr Michael Green is adviser in evangelism to the Archbishops of Canterbury and York.

Credo

Michael Green

others. Without belief in Christ and the experience of His help, I think that our marriage would have foundered.

You may say: "You should not have drifted apart in the first place." True. You may say: "Why, when the spark had died, did you not get divorced?"

Divorce has never been easier: this country is the divorce capital of Europe. But divorce is not the path to which Christ points. Rather, "what God has joined together let not man put asunder."

We knew we needed to

Saintly banner causes a flutter

By ALAN HAMILTON

LOYAL citizens who want to erect a banner to celebrate a visit by the Princess Royal have been told by their local council that they will require planning permission, and it will cost £45 to apply.

Trustees of the deconsecrated church of St Peter and St Paul in Marlborough, Wiltshire, wanted to hoist the banner of their patron saints on November 28, when the Princess visits the library across the street to unveil a plaque to the founder of the Save the Children Fund, of which she is president.

But they have run into an obscure bureaucratic thicket which, according to Kennet District Council, decrees that the banner would be classed as an advertisement, and would require council approval just as if it were a hoarding.

The trustees of the Norman building thought briefly that they had found a loophole. They were told that to fly the national flag of any nation did not require permission; the

banner of St Peter and St Paul, showing two crossed keys and a sword on a red background, resembles the national flag of Vatican City. But then they thought again, fearing that such a ruse might compromise the history of a church which had turned Anglican at the Reformation.

David Sherratt, one of the trustees of the church, which is now a secular historic building, said: "We might cause offence if we suggested that the former church had reverted to its original owners. Cardinal Wolsey, who was ordained in the church in 1498, would have been very amused by this legal conundrum. It comes under advertising law, but I am not sure what we are advertising."

Anglican churches which are still in use are allowed to fly the Cross of St George, but once they become deconsecrated they are no longer subject to diocesan control, and are treated by councils like any other building.

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Rainbow Warrior raid 'got blessing of Mitterrand'

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

FRANÇOIS MITTERRAND personally approved the undercover operation that led to the sinking of the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior* in 1985, according to a book by a former anti-terrorist agent for the French Government.

In *The Elysée's Secret Wars*, published yesterday, Captain Paul Barril, a plainclothes policeman who worked in the presidential anti-terrorist squad during the early 1980s, claims Mitterrand knew all about the mission, but successfully distanced himself from the ensuing scandal by ensuring that the blame was pinned on Charles Hernu, then Defence Minister.

Captain Barril supports his allegations by citing secret telephone taps and a memorandum from Admiral Pierre Lacoste, then head of French intelligence, describing a meeting with the Socialist President during which the mission was approved.

The *Rainbow Warrior* was sunk on July 10, 1985, in the port of Auckland, New Zealand, where Greenpeace was demonstrating against French nuclear tests in the region. A Portuguese photographer was killed.

"In reality, nothing about the operation carried out

against the *Rainbow Warrior* was unknown to Mitterrand," Captain Barril writes. To deflect suspicion from the President, Mitterrand's Prime Minister, Captain Barril claims that a series of "leaks" were made to a pliant press laying the blame squarely on the French secret services, under the direct control of the Minister of Defence. Two months after the sinking, Mitterrand dismissed Admiral Lacoste and Hernu resigned over the affair.

"M. Hernu knew he was being made a scapegoat, and he had to sacrifice himself," Captain Barril said in an interview yesterday. The former Defence Minister died of a heart attack in 1990. At the time of the incident, the French press reported that Mitterrand had no idea of French involvement in the sinking until a week after the explosion.

The author, who now works as a security adviser to the exiled Emir of Qatar, also claims to have been the target of telephone taps organised by the Elysée. Critics have accused him of holding a grudge against the former President. The book, serialised in *Le Figaro* this week, also raises new doubts about the death of

François Durand de Grossouvre, a friend of Mitterrand and his adviser on secret affairs, who was found dead in his office at the Elysée Palace on April 7, 1994.

The official verdict was suicide, but Captain Barril said he was "absolutely convinced" that de Grossouvre, who founded the Elysée's anti-terrorist unit, was the victim of a plot by Mitterrand's advisers.

A close friend of the dead man, Captain Barril writes that just three months before his death de Grossouvre told him: "Paul, they are going to gun me down. I know everything now. They are frightened. They are ready to do anything at the Elysée. These people are bastards. I'm counting on you."

The author also claims that an hour before his death de Grossouvre wrote a note confirming a dinner appointment. He had also just finished writing his memoirs covering the war years and the Nazi occupation, which allegedly contained "revelations, shattering for those close to Mitterrand. Shortly before his death, Mitterrand told him to hand over his archives... De Grossouvre refused," Captain Barril writes.

Protesters' cows graze on Champ de Mars

BY BEN MACINTYRE

A HERD of more than 30 cows grazed nonchalantly alongside the Eiffel Tower yesterday as President Chirac met their owners and promised to support cattle farmers after the BSE crisis.

The protesters, bovine and human, left Chirac in central France to walk 220 miles to Paris on August 11 and were cheered by Parisians as they plodded on to the grassy Champ de Mars yesterday.

The day after farm unions mounted a huge operation to intercept lorries suspected of importing beef from Britain and outside the European Union, M. Chirac welcomed a delegation of demonstrators, who entered the Elysée Palace clad in farming clothes and carrying staffs. "The farmers must know that we support cattle breeding and that we will not let them down," the President said after the meeting.

M. Chirac's power base is in the cattle-producing Corrèze region and the former Agriculture Minister spent an hour and a half listening to the grievances of the farmers, who have seen beef consumption drop by up to a third since March.

"He talks like a farmer," Pierre Grolleau said, adding: "The President told us he would not let us down, but he had no magic wand."



A farmer kisses her cow after they finished their 220-mile walk to Paris yesterday

WORLD SUMMARY

Lebed gets Yeltsin's approval

Moscow: President Yeltsin has backed the Chechen peace plan negotiated by Aleksandr Lebed, Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Russian Prime Minister, said yesterday.

"Lebed is now in Chechnya solving some problems," Interfax quoted Mr. Chernomyrdin as saying. He added that the main thing was his programme, which had been agreed with Mr. Yeltsin.

General Lebed, whom Mr. Yeltsin ordered to restore peace, struck a deal with the separatist rebels last week. He later discussed a deal to tackle the status of Chechnya. Mr. Yeltsin has said any deal should preserve Russia's territorial integrity. (Reuters)

Saudis detain dissident's son

London: Saudi authorities have arrested the 21-year-old son and three other relatives of the Saudi dissident, Muhammad al-Masari (Michael Binyon writes). Dr al-Masari, an outspoken opponent of the Saudi royal family, said his son, Ahmed, and two of his brothers were detained on Sunday. A half-brother was also held. Saudi officials said they were charged with possessing anti-government leaflets faxed from abroad.

Briton begins police purge

Sydney: Peter Ryan, a former Chief Constable of Norfolk, yesterday began work as Commissioner of the New South Wales Police (Roger Maynard writes). Mr. Ryan, who has the task of cleaning up the force regarded as Australia's most corrupt, has already sacked two of his most senior officers who have been called before a royal commission into police corruption.

Manila in pact with Muslims

Manila: The Philippines Government and Muslim rebels initiated yesterday a landmark peace deal in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, to end 24 years of bloodshed in Mindanao (Abby Tan writes). But as Filipino Muslims in the south gave thanks, residents in Christian-dominated cities planned protests.

Marching orders

Amsterdam: The Netherlands has ended its 187-year-old national service with Joris Voorhoeve, the Defence Minister, giving the last conscripts cassette-players with recordings of drill orders. (Reuters)

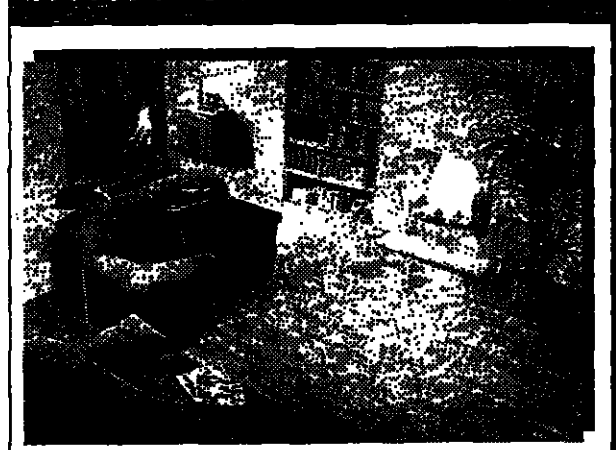
Lost Goya sketch is unveiled

THE owner of an art gallery in Palafrugell, northwest Spain, yesterday unveiled a painting by Goya long believed to have been lost (Tunku Varadarajan writes).

The painting, a sketch for Goya's *Carlos IV on Horseback*, belongs to an anonymous couple who "bought it for a song" from a local antiques dealer, according to Xavier Amir, the gallery owner. Spanish experts have put its market value at about £2 million. It was painted in 1799, but lost in 1885, after being sold at a Paris auction for Frs. The last Goya to have come on the market, *Death of a Pionero*, fetched £2.5 million at Sotheby's last month.

The work, which the couple wishes to sell to the state, is 38cm by 30cm, a tenth of the size of the main painting, which hangs at the Prado Museum in Madrid. Scientists and art historians from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia have spent several months verifying its authenticity and are in no doubt that it is by Goya.

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Belgium toughens prisoner releases after sex scandal

FROM CHARLES BREMNER IN BRUSSELS

THE Belgian Cabinet yesterday endorsed measures to ensure there could be no repeat of a case like that of Marc Dutroux, the confessed child kidnapper, as Jean-Luc Dehaene, the Prime Minister, blamed the depravity on the pursuit of profit.

Nearly two weeks after disclosure of the deaths of two girls aged eight, the Government acknowledged "serious shortcomings" in the judicial system. It decided to set up a tribunal to rule on the early release of prisoners, taking such decisions out of the hands of the Justice Minister.

Among other measures designed to toughen the treatment of sex offenders, the Cabinet promised the urgent review of 8,000 former prisoners on parole, with special attention to sex offenders. It also promised better co-ordination between feeding police forces, Mr Dehaene, criticised for staying on holiday when

the girls were given a virtual state funeral last week, said he had wanted to stay out of the picture "to let justice take its course".

He insisted nothing would be allowed to obstruct the investigation into Dutroux and his alleged ring of paedophiles. The whole Government had been shocked by the murders of Julie Lejeune and Melissa Russo, who starved to death in a cell under a house owned by Dutroux.

No person must be treated as property, he said. "If money allows everything to be bought, and if the lure of profit becomes the only driving force of man, then a world is created where this kind of perversity can happen." The remark seemed to reflect Mr Dehaene's Christian Democratic belief that society is being made brutal by the free-market system.

The Government's measures were mainly a response

to one of the most shocking aspects of the affair: the disclosure that Dutroux had been released from jail in 1992 after only six years of a 13-year sentence for abducting and raping young girls. He had had no serious follow-up or official surveillance.

Police last night suspended the search for more bodies in a house owned by Dutroux at Charleroi while prosecutors continued to question the nine other accused people, including Michelle Dutroux, wife of the unemployed builder.

Newspapers reported yesterday that she had confessed to a role in the torture and deaths of the girls, saying she was supposed to have fed them while Dutroux served three months in custody this year on a theft charge, later dropped. She was reported to have said she could not face entering their cell. The girls were dying by the time Dutroux was freed in March.



A Palestinian boy, holding his father's hand as they go for Friday prayers at al-Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, grasps an Israeli border guard's rifle. By ringing Jerusalem with police and army roadblocks, Israel thwarted a call by Yasser

Israel thwarts prayer protest

Arafat, the Palestine Authority leader, for Palestinians to attend mass prayers in the city (Ross Dunn

writes). Jerusalem police estimated that no more than 15,000 Muslims turned up at the mosque in the Old City. He said the figure was far below expectations of up to 100,000, and was in fact only about half the normal turnout for Friday prayers.

Vatican denies ailing Pope may abdicate

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Vatican yesterday denied reports that the Pope was considering abdication in view of his failing health. Archbishop Jean-François Arrighi, a long-serving member of the Curia, the Vatican civil service, said the resignation of the Pope was rather like the Loch Ness monster — "it is a creature which does not exist, but now and then someone appears who swears he has seen it".

Suggestions that the Pope might become so unwell that he has to stand down have been circulating throughout the summer. He suffers from repeated abdominal ailments, often appears tired, and on some recent occasions has reportedly failed to recognise visitors.

This week the French magazine *L'Express* brought the issue into the open by publishing a cover story with the title "Should John Paul II abdicate?" Cardinal Roger Etchegaray, the most senior Frenchman in the Vatican, a close ally of the Pope and head of the Vatican committee preparing for the year 2000, said: "It's all little-tattle. The Holy Father is in full spate."

Four Popes have abdicated, and seven have been ousted. The last Pope to step down voluntarily was Celestine V in 1294.

The present Pope has suffered a series of illnesses since the attempt on his life on May 13, 1981, when he was shot in the stomach. In July 1992 he had a tumour "the size of an orange" removed from his colon; doctors said it was on the verge of becoming malignant. He broke his right shoulder in November 1993 and his hip in May 1994.

Last year there was a false alarm when doctors thought they had detected another tumour. At Christmas the Pope had to cut short his *Urbi et Orbi* message because of "fever and nausea", and in March this year he cancelled an audience because of a "digestive fever".

The latest concern arose over his unexpected visit two weeks ago to a hospital because of "abdominal pains". He often needs help when walking, appears to endure public occasions in some pain, and rarely smiles.

There are occasional flashes of the vigorous and witty Polish cardinal elected in 1978 at the age of 58, but it is said to suffer from memory lapses and lack of concentration. His left hand constantly trembles.

Vatican sources said the Pope was determined to see in the millennium, an event he often refers to. He is maintaining a taxing travelling schedule, visiting Hungary next week and France next month.

Trio of traumas tell on a sturdy spirit

The Pope may be feeling his age but he has survived against the normal medical odds, writes Dr Thomas Stuttford

THREE times in the past 15 years the Pope has survived medical problems which could have killed a lesser man. In 1981 he was shot in the abdomen, developed a post-operative infection and took three months to recover.

In 1992 the Pope suffered obstruction of the bowel which tests showed was caused by a cancer. Patients with tumours of the bowel which are first detected because of obstruction tend to fare less well, even when surgery is possible, than those in whom the cancer is noticed because of bleeding.

Although the Pope's surgeon was supremely optimistic, results after surgery are disappointing. Even when operated on in a specialist unit, less than 50 per cent of patients with a well-established tumour survive for more than five years.

The Pope's third medical disaster was the fracture of a hip in a fall. Up to 20 per cent of people who fracture a femur die within a year, but once again the Pope surprised his doctors by making a good recovery.

The Pope is reputed to have

been rather vague and forgetful recently. He also has a noticeable tremor in one hand and his social expressions are less mobile, all possible signs of incipient Parkinson's Disease, or of brain damage which is mimicking it.

However physically strong and intellectually brilliant the Pope was in his prime, multiple anaesthetics, the physiological shock and collapse of his blood pressure after the assassination attempt, and the blood loss which will have accompanied the fracture of his thigh bone, must all have had a deleterious effect on his intellectual reserves.

It is also possible that he may be suffering from anaemia, either as a direct result of a recurrence of his tumour or as a side-effect of drugs which could be used to treat this eventuality.

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Island finds its mark

MAJORCA FILE
by TUNKU
VARADARAJAN



Return of the Saint, Magazine



Claudia Schiffer, a model German, enjoys the sunny vista from the balcony of her villa in Majorca

"Good", by common consent, is Cristófol Soler, the man who governed for a few months in between "Ugly" and "Bad". An anglophile and the best politician around, he embodies the thrifty values of Majorca's bourgeoisie. Thrust into the wilderness by the power-hungry Señor Cañellas, he promises that he will be "the new sheriff in town" this autumn.

Ensenyat, one of the island's few Oxonians, said: "To Dr Waldren goes the credit for finding the earliest man in Majorca, and unearthing the Myotragus balearicus, an Ice Age mouse-goat which once frolicked all over the island. Without him we would not have known our own prehistory."

Madras is now called Chennai (Christopher Thomas writes). Name-changing is an Indian obsession. The names of buildings, streets, towns, villages, neighbourhoods and fire stations — Karnataka used to be Mysore, Tamil Nadu was Madras State — are revised, either to rid them of their colonial character or to make a sycophantic gesture to a powerful politician or family.



Bashir: faces armed threat from exile group



Mahdi: "northerners want civil war to end"

M. Karunanidhi, the new Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, of which Madras is the capital, says:

Delhi. After Bombay, Poona, Baroda, Trivandrum and Benares, it is the term of Madras for a change of name. The principal city of southern India is now called Madras (Christopher Thomas writes).

Name-changing is an Indian obsession. The names of buildings, streets, towns, villages, neighbourhoods and entire states — Karnataka used to be Mysore, Tamil Nadu was Madras State — are revised, either to rid them of their colonial character or as a symbolic gesture to a powerful politician or family.

The name Bombay is rapidly disappearing. Mumbai is used by all Indian newspapers and is officially recognised by the

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THE HIDDEN ASSETS OF BRITISH AIRWAYS

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

SATURDAY AUGUST 31 1996

GEC seeks big stake in French nuclear industry

By Sarah Cunningham

GEC has unveiled audacious plans to win a significant stake in France's nuclear power industry.

The British company proposes to acquire Framatome, the French state-controlled builder of nuclear power stations, in partnership with Alcatel Alsthom. The proposed merger of GEC Alsthom, their engineering joint venture, and Framatome would create a company with sales of nearly £10 billion and 90,000 employees.

said yesterday that he hopes a deal will be ready in two to three months.

Although some Framatome shareholders are likely to swap their existing shares for stakes in the enlarged GEC Alsthom, Alcatel is thought likely to take cash from the deal to fund a bid for Thomson, the French state-owned electrical equipment giant,

which is slated for privatisation this year.

A spokesman for Alcatel said it was too early to say whether it would take cash but emphasised that "we will stay on as a very significant shareholder of the new company".

GEC Alsthom, which specialises in energy and transport projects, including the TGV high-speed train, is

now owned 50-50 by GEC and Alcatel. If all other French shareholders take up their shares in the enlarged GEC Alsthom under the deal, GEC's stake is likely to fall below half.

Mr Bates does not expect opposition from the French Government to a British company taking a major stake in the French nuclear industry.

"The French Government knows what we are doing and has authorised the release of information." The French Government said yesterday that full approval will be conditional on "appropriate control guarantees".

Framatome's turnover last year was £17.9 billion (about £2.27 billion) but this year's turnover is expected to fall to around £15 billion. Pre-tax profits last year were around £1.1 billion.

Analysts said the deal should strengthen the hand of Alcatel Alsthom in bidding for major infrastructure projects in Asia and Eastern Europe, markets where Westinghouse of the US and Germany's Siemens are strong players. GEC said that it wanted to pursue the deal because "the pooling of complementary activities would establish a group with the capability to produce both nuclear and conventional power-generating plant, and enhance the development potential of the technological and industrial bases of the two companies".

Simpson pay riles pensioners

By Caroline Merrell

THE £10 million pay package awarded to George Simpson, incoming managing director of GEC, has enraged a group of pensioners who have been embroiled in a three-year legal battle with the electronics giant over the withdrawal of free private medical cover.

One of those directly affected by GEC's decision to drop the benefit is Sir John Clark, former chairman of Plessey, which was taken over by GEC in 1989. Sir John suffered a stroke last year. The bill for his treatment was £27,000, of

which just £2,000 was covered by the healthcare plan offered by GEC to replace the free Plessey scheme.

His wife, Lady Clark, has attacked GEC over the withdrawal of the free medical cover, and over its treatment of the 2,000 Plessey pensioners affected by the decision. After the takeover of Plessey by GEC and Siemens in 1989, GEC withdrew the free private medical cover enjoyed by retired former Plessey employees for more than three decades, saying it

could no longer afford to offer the generous benefit.

Around 480 pensioners from the 2,000 affected began legal action against GEC three years ago after negotiations broke down. The pensioners are suing for millions of pounds of compensation but many have died before the case can be settled. GEC, meanwhile, is to meet with the Association of British Insurers next week to discuss Mr Simpson's pay package.

Weekend Money, page 31

Lloyd's offer gets 91% backing

By Jon Ashworth

LLOYD'S of London declared its settlement offer unconditional yesterday — and gave recalcitrant names until noon on Wednesday to change their minds. Some 31,246 names had accepted the offer by close of business on Thursday — 91 per cent of worldwide membership — heaping pressure on the remainder to sign up. Names who do not accept will be pursued through the courts for their debts.

David Rowland, chairman of Lloyd's, said two more steps remained before Lloyd's could finally "draw the line" with the disastrous losses of recent years. The board of Equitas, the proposed new independent reinsurer, must decide whether the financial package is acceptable. Next, the Department of Trade and Industry must decide whether the conditions for authorising Equitas have been met — a decision expected to be taken next week. Mr Rowland said: "Our part's done. Now it's up to you."

He urged names who have not yet accepted the offer to do so as soon as possible. The biggest shortfall is in America, where just over 69 per cent of names have signed up. This compares with acceptances of 94.7 per cent among the 26,500 UK names.

Ron Sandler, chief executive of Lloyd's, said much remained to be done in regaining ground lost to competitors and in restoring the confidence of policyholders. On the threat of ongoing legal action, he said: "Undoubtedly, some names in the US and UK will stay out of the settlement, and hence some legal action will continue, but not at a level that poses any significant risk." Names in America have vowed to continue their legal battle.

Lenders cautious on strength of housing recovery

By Robert Miller and Janet Bush

MORTGAGE lenders yesterday sounded a note of caution about the housing market recovery as new data showed net lending rising only modestly.

However, house prices are still increasing strongly, with the Nationwide Building Society yesterday reporting a 1.7 per cent rise in August, lifting them 5.4 per cent from a year ago. However, Nationwide, which yesterday cut its savings rates by an average of 0.18 per cent, said that the number of transactions remained disappointing, with a slight monthly fall in July's figures.

Latest Bank of England statistics show net lending in July

up to £1.5 billion, from £1.4 billion the previous month.

Adrian Coles, Director-General of the Council of Mortgage Lenders, said that the new figures provided further solid evidence of an improving housing market. However, he said: "If the picture so far... continues to the end of the year, net lending, the best measure of actual house-buying activity, will still only be about as strong as in 1993 and weaker than in 1994, well after the housing market recession had started."

He added: "The gross lending and approvals figures are encouraging, but, because they include re-mortgaging, their effect on the strength of future net lending is uncertain."

Other figures showed that net consumer credit grew by £1.03 billion in July, against a £659 million rise in June. This far exceeded City forecasts and seems to confirm that consumer confidence continues to grow. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, said the data showed consumers to be "increasingly confident on their own prospects".

Some City analysts said the credit figure virtually ruled out a base rate cut at next Wednesday's meeting of the Chancellor and the Governor of the Bank of England. Others said the overall credit picture, including mortgages, was too ambiguous to be decisive.

Although most major mortgage lenders have been withdrawing special discounted home loans, Northern Rock Building Society, which plans to become a £1 billion bank next year, yesterday re-introduced a cash-back deal, worth up to £9,000, for borrowers buying building and contents insurance through it.



Sir Gerald Whent, Vodafone chief executive, who sold 870,000 share options yesterday

Whent makes £1m from shares

By Clare Stewart

SIR Gerald Whent, chief executive of Vodafone, made a profit of £1.14 million yesterday after cashing in share options. He sold 870,000 shares at 245p, in a deal worth £213 million in total.

After the sale he retains a shareholding worth £1.25 million at yesterday's prices, together with options over a further 1.3 million shares, exercisable up to 2005.

The options exercised were at prices of 93p, 112p and 136p, granted at the time of — or just after — Vodafone's separation from Racal, formerly its parent company.

Sir Gerald, 69, last year saw his pay package rise 7 per cent, to £600,000, excluding a further £210,000 of pension contribution. He is Vodafone's highest-paid director and has been chief executive since 1988

when Vodafone floated on the stock market. He was previously chairman and chief executive.

Sir Gerald is also a non-executive director of the electronics group Racal, where he earns £45,000 a year. He has a holding of just over 38,000 shares in Racal, which is worth £112,000 at current prices. He does not hold share options in Racal.

FT-SE 100	3867.5	(-17.4)
Yield	4.05%	
FT-SE All share	1915.50	(-7.77)
Nikkei	20168.00	(-388.28)
New York		
Dow Jones	5691.41	(-48.94)
S&P Composite	651.54	(-6.38)
Federal Funds	5 1/8%	(5%)
Long Bond	7 1/8%	(8 1/8%)
Yield	7.12%	(7.04%)
3-mth Interbank	5 1/8%	(5 1/8%)
Life long gilt		
future (Sep)	107	(107 1/4)
FT-SE 100		
New York	1,561 1/2	(1,557 1/2)
London	1,583 1/2	(1,557 1/2)
DM	1,201 1/2	(1,194 1/2)
SP	7,902 1/2	(7,887 1/2)
Yon	1,871 1/2	(1,864 1/2)
Yon	168 3/4	(168 1/2)
£ Index	85.3	(85.0)
Tokyo close	108.45	
Brent 15-day (Nov)	\$20.25	(\$20.25)
London close	\$386.35	(\$388.25)

Borrowing tops Maastricht level

By Janet Bush
ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

BRITAIN'S public borrowing is nearly twice what it would have to be to meet the Maastricht treaty criteria to join a single European currency.

Latest figures suggest a stark contradiction between the stated aim of Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to meet the Maastricht criteria — despite Brit-

ain's current opt-out from the single currency — and Conservative calls for tax cuts in the Budget.

The Office for National Statistics said that the general government financial deficit, the measure of public borrowing standard in European accounting, totalled 5.8 per cent of gross domestic product in 1995. In the tax year 1995-96, the deficit was 5.1 per cent of GDP.

These figures compare with the Maastricht limit of 3 per cent. European states that wish to join the single currency must meet this criterion and others in the calendar year 1997. This gives Britain a tight timetable for further progress, particularly if there is a tax giveaway in November.

On the positive side, Britain's gross debt-to-GDP ratio of 54.1 per cent in 1995 is well within the Maastricht reference limit of 60 per cent.

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Realistic to expect performance-linked pay perfection

In recent years remuneration committees and their advisers have agonised, sometimes at great expense, about how to incentivise and reward directors and senior executives.

Remuneration committees and their advisers face an impossible mission in trying to reconcile successfully the different interests they have to juggle in implementing policies and practices. The difficulties they face deserve public recognition. Fair play demands that criticism — public or private — should be considered and constructive. Improved channels of communications between non-executive directors and major shareholders would do much to foster the trust and mutual understanding that is sometimes sadly lacking on these sensitive issues. Improvements will come, of that I have no doubt.

There is a seemingly never-ending stream of new long-term incentive plans and share-option schemes being recommended to shareholders as in their best

interests. The truth is they will only be in the best long-term interest of shareholders if they motivate participants to achieve sustained outstanding financial performance. But here lies the root of the problem — outstanding performance means different things to different shareholders and to different companies.

This week's debate on the performance measuring of George Simpson's package at GEC brings this into sharp focus. There is no perfect measure of performance. The time to acknowledge this is long overdue. Earnings per share, total shareholder return and return on capital employed are some of the measures commonly used but they are all flawed and open to legitimate criticism. The search for the perfect system of performance-related pay has a Utopian quality.

Take total shareholder return (TSR). This is a measure of share price and dividends that is generally compared with a broadly based index, such as the FT-SE 100, or an index of competitors. But execu-

tives can't control share price. Whether participants are rewarded is at the mercy of other companies in the benchmark index, as much as the performance of the company in question and its senior executives. Companies and shareholders need reliable measures they can trust to reflect the financial performance required.

Situations are bound to arise when executives have worked hard to improve financial performance but feel frustrated when this is not reflected in the relative share price. Likewise, shareholders will feel aggrieved when they see senior executives receiving handsome rewards that are not justified by the financial performance. The media mauling of some poorly performing utility company "fat cats" painfully illustrates the shortcomings of share-price-based measures of performance. When the economic cycle goes into decline the unsuitability of TSR will be crystal clear for all to see.

Standard Life's position on TSR is quite clear. We are about

EXECUTIVE VOICE



Guy Jubb

corporate performance. As long-term investors we want to see directors and senior executives incentivised to achieve outstanding improvements in financial performance. We generally only vote for TSR-based schemes when they are supported by another condition designed to ensure they will only reward participants if there has been an improvement in the company's underlying finan-

cial performance. Even then, we are disappointed that so many secondary conditions do not really challenge the participants.

So who is to blame for the present shortcomings? Executives? Remuneration committees? Their advisers? Shareholders? I sense the history books will award joint and several liability. One thing is for sure — they each have a responsibility to play their part in improving many of the present performance measures so that participants are continuously being challenged to achieve outstanding financial performance.

Many companies have built up such complex systems of remuneration and incentivisation that they have lost sight of what they are trying to achieve. The longer the process goes on, the more complex the schemes seem to become. Even professional shareholders struggle to understand what is going on.

But who is going to liberate them from these intricate webs? The answer is not obvious and this is a regrettable state of affairs. In

outlining what I should like to see happen I want to lend constructive encouragement to revisit old ground, conscious that most remuneration committees have exercised diligent responsibility and good faith in recommending present policies and practices.

First, remuneration committees should stand back and take a fresh look as to how best to achieve outstanding corporate performance. Start with a clean sheet of paper and see how the common-sense solution can be reconciled with today's reality.

Second, remuneration committees should take a critical look at each remuneration component — salary, bonus and so on — to satisfy themselves it is necessary to improve the company's financial performance. Balancing short-term and long-term components is no easy task. Although the merits of aligning shareholder and employee interests through share ownership are now generally accepted, it is still too early to say whether long-term incentive plans,

the cult of the 1990s, will motivate managers effectively to achieve outstanding performance.

Third, remuneration committees should critically appraise the performance measures that are used, recognising that no one measure is perfect. Does the solution lie in a balanced scorecard approach? For example, utility companies could use financial, customer service and corporate responsibility measures, which are challenging and demanding. These could well help to produce the long-term corporate performance that is in the best interests of shareholders and stakeholders.

Finally, institutional shareholders have a vested interest in seeing improved corporate performance. Thanks to Greenbury and the Stock Exchange they are, through the provision of information and opportunity to vote on aspects of remuneration policy, in a position to help to achieve that aim. They must use their votes and influence.

□ The author is corporate governance director of Standard Life

Boatmen's in \$9.5bn merger

NATIONSBANK agreed to acquire Boatmen's Bancshares for about \$9.5 billion yesterday, creating a financial group stretching from North Carolina to New Mexico.

The transaction, the third-biggest bank merger in America, will create a bank with some \$230 billion in assets, \$20 billion in shareholders' equity and a market capitalisation of \$33 billion.

The new company, which will have more than 13 million customers in 16 states, will become the country's fourth-largest commercial bank and have the potential to produce \$3 billion in profits next year. NationsBank, with \$192 billion in total assets, had been the fifth largest.

Under the deal, NationsBank, based in North Carolina, will exchange 0.6525 shares of its common stock for each share of Boatmen's, which is based in St Louis and has about \$41 billion in assets. Based on Thursday's \$92.375 closing price for NationsBank shares, the transaction will be worth about \$9.487 billion. The offer represents a 40 per cent premium over Boatmen's closing price of \$42.94 and equates to about 2.7 times' book value.

NationsBank said it expected to realise \$335 million in annual cost savings from the merger by 1999. The deal is subject to the approval of both sets of shareholders and the regulatory authorities.

Surprise as NIE refers regulator's price review

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

NORTHERN Ireland Electricity surprised the stock market yesterday by referring the regulator's first review of its prices to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Since the review was published at the end of July, NIE's share price has fallen around 17 per cent. The shares fell a further 7½ p to 335p yesterday.

Most analysts accepted that the review's proposals were harsh but they felt NIE would reluctantly accept them. It may take the MMC up to six months to adjudicate.

Douglas McDougal, the regulator, ordered NIE to cut its revenue by 31 per cent next year and to cap price rises over the following four years to two percentage points below inflation. He estimated that the cuts would lead to a revenue reduction for NIE of £68 million in the first year and an average £40 cut in customer bills.

Yesterday NIE said it regretted that its compromise set of proposals, involving an on-off revenue reduction of 22 per cent next year to be followed by a price cap of three percentage points below inflation, had been rejected by the regulator.

According to NIE the proposals would cut its revenue

£45 million next year and would knock around £35 from customers' average bills.

Yesterday both sides admitted the differences between them were not huge. But Patrick Haren, the NIE chief executive, insisted they were important.

He said: "We are saying that the regulator got it wrong, that the customer has substantial benefits on the table and that all the efficiency gains that NIE has made since privatisation would go directly back to the customer." He added that the regulator's proposals would not allow NIE sufficient revenue to cover its costs and give shareholders a proper return.

Ofreg, the Belfast-based Office for the Regulation of Electricity and Gas, said it was disappointed at NIE's decision.

NIE — floated on the stock market in 1992 — earned record pre-tax profits of £107 million in the year to March 31, 1996. Gearing is only 0.6 per cent and dividend cover is a hefty 3.1 times.

Bills in Northern Ireland have traditionally been about 20 per cent higher than in England and Wales, partly because of the sparse population.

NIE also blames the rising cost of oil and the high prices that independent generating companies charge. They account for about 60 per cent of customer bills.

NIE, which has cut its workforce by 34 per cent since privatisation, said substantial job losses would be required, even if its own less stringent proposals were accepted.

Tempos, page 30



Bloomberg, Nicholas Marshall, left, the chief executive of Country Gardens, and Patrick Pearce, finance director, reported £2.2 million interim pre-tax profits (£1.3 million)

Blenheim and Reed end talks

BY JASON NISSE

BLenheim GROUP, the exhibitions company, yesterday lost its second round of recent weeks when Reed Elsevier, the Anglo-Dutch publisher, pulled out of bid talks.

Blenheim shares fell 10p, to 398p, ahead of the news and are expected to drop further on Monday. An after-hours trade in the shares was recorded at 330p.

Reed's interest in Blenheim emerged after the collapse last month of discussions with United News & Media, which had considered making a £450 million bid for Blenheim.

Reed employs many of the executives who made Blenheim a force in the French exhibitions market and has long been seen as a possible suitor. However, Blenheim yesterday said that it had received no proposals that it believed it could put to its shareholders.

The main sticking point is understood to be price, with Neville Buch, Blenheim's chairman, pushing for 500p a share, valuing the group at £500 million, and Reed taking the view that Blenheim is worth substantially less.

Blenheim said that it had seen "very strong" trading in the first half of this year.

Milk move referral to MMC

BY CLARE STEWART

A PROPOSED merger between Scotland's two largest dairy companies has been referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

The approach made by Robert Wiseman Dairies to Scottish Pride Holdings has been referred because of concern about competition in milk supply and processing.

The referral comes even though no formal offer has been made by Robert Wiseman and although there have been no talks, according to Scottish Pride, which is listed on the Alternative Investment Market.

Alan Wiseman, chairman of Wiseman, said that he was "surprised and naturally disappointed" by the referral. Combining the two groups would "create a strong Scottish dairy group capable of competing with the major UK dairy companies", he said.

Wiseman has about 45 per cent of the Scottish market, and its rival has 40 per cent.

Scottish Pride, the processing arm of the old Scottish Milk Marketing Board, made a loss of £4 million last year. Wiseman shares closed 1½ p up, at 176½ p. Scottish Pride fell 3p, to 47½ p.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

British Steel may sell forgings firm

BRITISH STEEL may sell its UK forgings business, it emerged yesterday. The company said that it has entered into exploratory discussions after receiving approaches from a number of potential purchasers. British Steel Forgings has an annual turnover of about £150 million and is the UK market leader in closed die forging, with about 50 per cent of UK forgings capacity. British Steel said that discussions were at an early stage, and that a further announcement would be made "in due course".

The BSF business supplies a range of forgings, mainly to the automotive industry and to the aerospace and industrial gas cylinders sectors. It is a major customer for British Steel Engineering Steels, BSF, which employs 2,100 people, has its headquarters at Bromsgrove, Worcestershire. Manufacturing facilities are located in the West Midlands and the East Midlands, Sheffield and Ayr. The forgings company, once owned by GKN, was absorbed by a joint venture set up by GKN and British Steel in 1986. British Steel acquired GKN's interest last year.

Firecrest takeover talks

FIRECREST, the troubled marketing and telecoms group, is in takeover talks with an unnamed company that may lead to a bid, ending its turbulent relationship with the Alternative Investment Market. A takeover would spare Firecrest from becoming the first company to be removed from the junior exchange, which will happen on September 2 if it fails to find a replacement for Singer & Friedlander, its nominated adviser, which resigns on Monday. The company said that, if this happens, its shares would be transferred to Oxfex, the unregulated exchange. Its shares fell 9½ p, to 49p, yesterday.

Irish sales unchanged

THE value of Irish retail sales in June was unchanged on the previous month, according to provisional figures yesterday from the Central Statistics Office. The seasonally adjusted figure for the three-month period to June 30 was 1.7 per cent higher than the previous three months and 9.9 per cent higher than for the same period last year. A breakdown of the final figures for May 1996, also released yesterday, showed that the biggest changes in the previous three months were a 5 per cent drop in fresh meat sales and a 12 per cent rise in garage and filling-station sales.

Macfarlane bid hunt

MACFARLANE GROUP (CLANSMAN), the packaging company, expects to make an acquisition by the end of the year. Lord Macfarlane of Bearsden, chairman, said the company was in talks with a number of potential targets but repeated the company was not interested in Sidlaw Group, the packaging company. Macfarlane has net cash of about £11 million. In the six months to June 30 it increased pre-tax profits 2 per cent to £10.3 million. The interim dividend is increased by 5 per cent to 1.47p, payable on October 8.

EU inflation at 2.5%

INFLATION in the European Union remained steady in July, rising at an annualised rate of 2.5 per cent, Eurostat, the EU's statistical office, said yesterday. The latest figures are the lowest since Eurostat began compiling them in 1983 for what are now the EU's 15 member states. Among the group, Finland recorded the smallest rise in prices with a gain of only 0.5 per cent, while inflation in Greece rose at a rate of 8.6 per cent, the highest in the European Union.

MIM copper fears

MIM HOLDINGS, the Australian mining group, fears that weak copper prices will continue to affect profits in the wake of the Sumitomo Corp trading scandal. The company yesterday reported annual net profits of A\$170.6 million (£55 million), compared with losses of A\$26.1 million. MIM operated its main Mount Isa base metal and silver mine in central Queensland profitably in the 1995-96 fiscal year after restoring production and lowering costs, although weaker copper prices depressed the bottom line.

Tax charge hurts BNFL

BY CLARE STEWART

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels (BNFL), the state-owned processor of nuclear waste, incurred a net loss of £88 million last year, affected by one-off charges that included a deferred tax provision of £356 million.

John Guinness, the chairman, said the result "does not overshadow BNFL's robust financial performance during the year".

Pre-tax profits rose 46 per

cent to £316 million on turnover that rose 18 per cent to £1.54 billion.

While operating profits were ahead by just 2 per cent to £233 million, the balance sheet was boosted by interest income, after the repayment of £136 million of borrowings last year. The dividend paid by BNFL to the Government more than doubles to £93 million.

Export sales now account for just under one third of turnover. BNFL said overseas earnings and new businesses should account for 75 per cent of turnover within a decade. The company has secured a £400 million contract to clean up a nuclear weapons site in America.

After the flotation of British Energy, the future of the Magnox reactors not included in the privatised group is now under discussion.

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After the flotation of British Energy, the future of the Magnox reactors not included in the privatised group is now under discussion.

Rowland attacks Lonrho chief

BY JON ASHWORTH

TINY ROWLAND, veteran of boardroom battles, has launched an outspoken attack on Dieter Bock, chief executive of Lonrho, accusing him of destroying the work of more than 30 years.

Mr Rowland has published his complaints in a circular to Lonrho's 54,000 shareholders. Mr Bock is accused of everything from mismanagement to downright betrayal.

In a seven-page tirade, which smacks of a tetchy headmaster dressing down a wayward pupil, Mr Rowland, who turns 80 next year, drew attention to his "circular" in a series of national newspaper advertisements. It is clear that

his feelings towards Mr Bock have not softened since his ousting from the Lonrho board in November 1994.

Mr Rowland, in essence, is irritated that his treasurer, Lonrho is being dismembered in so public a fashion. He singles out closer links with Anglo-American, asking: "What can we as shareholders expect from a stripped and cash-rich Lonrho controlled by a huge South African mining house?"

Mr Rowland criticises the intended demerger of Lonrho's African interests, which will leave Lonrho with a substantial cash mountain. Of Mr Bock, he writes: "Our

chief executive entered upon the scene as a wealthy and successful property developer who longed to invest in Lonrho and its exciting African business, and who wanted only to build up our group. In reality he has now sold or pledged every share he acquired from me... Lonrho is being packaged and sold off."

Lonrho dismissed Mr Rowland's remarks as "nonsensical" yesterday. It added that Lonrho's share price has risen from 73p to 177p since Mr Bock appeared on the scene. Mr Rowland was cruising in his Mediterranean on his yacht Hense yesterday, and could not be reached for comment.



Rowland: seven-page tirade

TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.18	15.89
Belgium Fr	50.35	48.05
Canada \$	2.286	2.076
Cyprus Cyp	0.747	0.682
Denmark Dkr	9.47	8.87
France Fr	7.51	6.95
Germany DM	8.28	7.83
Greece Dr	2.40	2.24
Hong Kong \$	383	358
India Rupee	12.89	11.89
Italy Lit	115	95
Japan Yen	1.01	0.93
Malaysia RM	1.58	1.43
Netherlands Gld	2.484	2.295
New Zealand \$	1.820	1.690
Norway Kr	0.598	0.541
Portugal Esc	2.731	2.501
Spain Ptas	2.40	2.18
Switzerland Fr	10.53	9.73
Swedish Kr	247.00	228.50
Swiss Franc	7.61	6.91
Swedish Krona	201.00	188.00
Swedish Krona	10.50	10.13
Switzerland Fr	1.39	1.21
Turkey Lira	137010	129010
USA \$	1.67	1.57

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

THE SUNDAY TIMES

Michael Who?

The most surprising thing about Michael Green is the extent to which the most powerful man in British television is almost completely unknown outside his network of high-level contacts. But what is he actually like and what motivates him?

Exclusive extracts from Greenfinger by Raymond Snoddy in The Sunday Times, tomorrow

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A WORKING WEEK FOR: KARL CHAPMAN

Investor in training for a change of scene

Jon Ashworth meets a former fund manager who transformed a small textile group into a £200m recruitment and education business

Monday
Tuesday
Wednesday
Thursday
Friday

KARL CHAPMAN was wandering around this week like someone who had just scooped the lottery jackpot — dazed, nervous, struggling to comprehend his incredible good fortune. Until Tuesday, he was just another company director, earning a moderate salary, planning the next step for CRT Group, his fast-growing recruitment and training company. Then came the Americans — and a cheque for £109 million.

Not your average cheque. And certainly not your typical Americans. Chapman, who lives in Grantham, Lincolnshire, with his wife and two young daughters, finds himself centre-stage in a drama that spans London and Los Angeles, and which takes in some familiar names. The cast includes Michael Milken, the former junk bond king, and Sir David Puttnam, Oscar-winning producer of *Chariots of Fire* and other hits. Christopher Stainforth of Blue Arrow note has a starring role. There is even a cameo appearance by Gerald Ronson. And all this at the age of just 34.

Chapman "cashed in" soon after 10am on Tuesday, when Education Technology, a Los Angeles company, handed over £109 million for a 50.1 per cent stake in CRT, which owns familiar high street names such as Software Personnel, Pitman Training and LINK Recruitment Services. The extraordinary meeting convened to approve the transaction lasted 12 minutes, with barely a twitch from the single shareholder who both-

What's interesting is how quickly we get to Broadway

Born in Chelmsford, Essex, Chapman read law at Birmingham University, then signed up as a management trainee at Guinness Mahon, where he worked as a fund manager. In 1989, with his wife, Louise, expecting their first baby, Chapman began to investigate ways of working from home. "I became stunned by what you could do using information and communications technology," he says. "We started doing some research and said we should invest in education and training companies and recruitment businesses. We couldn't find any."

Chapman left Guinness Mahon to concentrate on his ambitions. He and his backers bought a small, publicly quoted, textile company, changed its name to CRT, and embarked on a series of acquisitions, snapping up a raft of companies in the space of about 13 months. The shares, trading at 40p when Chapman moved in, more than trebled in value on the back of his efforts, trading at close to 150p ahead of the American deal. The challenge was what to do next.

Enter Michael Milken, former head of high-yield and convertible bonds at Drexel Burnham Lambert, and the man who fuelled a spate of takeover bids during the 1980s, before falling foul of US securities regulators. In January of this year Milken and his brother Lowell, a lawyer, teamed up with Larry Ellison, chief executive officer of Oracle, the software group, to form Education Technology, which seeks to build a portfolio of companies designed to serve international educational needs. Ellison has put \$150 million of his personal fortune into the venture, which went

"live" in January. The Milken brothers have put in \$150 million between them. CRT is Education Technology's first transaction. The link man is Sir David Puttnam, defender of the British film industry, who knew Steven Fink through Hollywood connections and had heard Chapman speak at a conference in Oxford. He also has close links with Guinness Mahon, where Christopher Stainforth, acquitted during the Blue Arrow trial, and successfully rebuilding his City career, was to advise on the CRT transaction. Neil McCarthy explains: "David Puttnam knew us, knew Karl, and he said: 'You know, this looks good'. David knew what we were looking for, and he thought the chemistry would be working, and it did."

The parties began talking in March. Chapman, who normally spends his week travelling around the UK by train, was duly whisked off to California, where he visited Ellison at his home near San Francisco. On the way back, they called in to visit Milken and the team in Los Angeles. Milken is banned from working in the securities industry, but his advisers say there is nothing to stop him working on CRT and other deals. "He's just an investor," says Fink. "He knows a lot of people. Whenever we want him, I'm sure

he's available to us." Ellison joins CRT as a non-executive director. Milken does not. With the California brigade on board, and £100 million in the bank, CRT is primed for an aggressive period of growth. Chapman says: "We have things that we want to do, both by organic growth and acquisition. We know what our agenda is. It's a very clear strategy and a very simple one."

Chapman, who is paid £124,000 in salary and bonuses, joins his fellow directors in an attractive incentive scheme. If CRT's share price hits 320p within three years, he becomes eligible to buy 500,000 shares at 160p — an instant "paper" profit of about £800,000. The shares were trading at 235½ yesterday. McCarthy says: "We said, listen, if we can't double the share price in three years, we're not doing a good job." UK institutions with the most to gain include M&G and Schroders, each with 7.5 per cent stakes. Royal Insurance is another big investor.



Karl Chapman: "We know we can create a UK-based plc which is a leading, if not the leading, player in the world in the next five to ten years."

here we are coming from the other side of the Atlantic, and we're buying control of this company. And we tried to indicate that although we're buying control we're not changing. So we thought it was appropriate to give a three-year contract."

The arrangement reverts to 12 months once the initial three-year period is up. Chapman insists that the Americans have much to contribute. "We know we can create a UK-based plc which is a leading, if not the leading, player in the world in these areas over the next five to ten years. You can't do it without bringing people of this calibre

on board," McCarthy adds. "One of our objectives was to take that clarity of vision and free Karl's time up from the necessity of having constantly to raise money. That's a real benefit that he has now. He has the wherewithal, we know what we want to do, it's just ready to take off."

Chapman's weekly routine is unlikely to change for now — begging letters from potential vendors aside. He tends to spend "a couple of days a week" in London, only 35 minutes by train from Grantham, where his wife awaits with their daughters, Rebecca, 7, and Charlotte, 4. Another day will find him in Warwick, where Software Personnel is based, or in the North West of England, checking on LINK's activities. If he is excited about his career break, he does a

good job of hiding it. No, he has not cracked the champagne — that will have to wait until the shares hit 500p. And as for his success in clinching the deal? "It's a nice end to Act 1 of CRT's history", he says. "We've spent so many years bringing CRT to where it is. Act 1 is closed. Act 11 is just about to start."

He warms to his theme. "For the last seven years, we've been touring the provinces. Sometimes, some of the actors have come on stage in the wrong outfits, sometimes the curtains have fallen down, but we've slowly refined the play. We've just moved to the West End. To put on a West End production takes a lot of money, and lot of commitment, and that's what we're doing now. What's interesting for me is how quickly we get to Broadway."

HIDDEN ASSETS

BA's 'invisible' building must be seen to be believed

Nicholas Grimshaw has taken on many a challenging architectural commission in his time and has come up with some ingenious results. But never had he been asked to build an "invisible" building. Invisible, that is, in the sense that it cannot be seen by radar.

The client was British Airways, wanting a new nerve centre for its international operations — a space of 200,000 sq feet, catering for 1,000 staff in office hours and a shifting population around the clock. And the company wanted it built just 200 yards from Heathrow's main north runway and opposite the airport's central radar tower.

Any ordinary building of more than one storey in that position would give off a radar echo, confusing incoming aircraft. This new building really did have to be radar-invisible.

Grimshaw and his team

Compass Centre is a shapely addition to Heathrow skyline, says Joanna Pitman

studied technology developed in the United States for the Stealth bomber and came up with an extraordinary building, shaped like a vast curling surf wave on the point of breaking. Radar beams, noise, heat and all other energy emanating from incoming aircraft is deflected off the curved panels on the curved walls and directed down to the car park in the foreground rather than back into the aircraft's flightpath.

Bright blue and gleaming glass, three storeys high and bowing perilously out towards the runway (the walls lean out at seven degrees at the bottom, 14 degrees at the middle and 21 degrees at the top), this building is unmissable to the human eye. But aircraft radar cannot

detect it. We know the energy deflection system works — whenever Concorde comes in to land, the radar beams, noise, heat and other vibration energy is all reflected towards the car park, whereupon all the car alarms go off.

A minor oversight, that, in what has otherwise proved a prize piece of architecture, opened in December 1994 and named the Compass Centre. Inside, the offices are largely open plan and aligned along a street-style layout of wide boulevards and piazzas, floored with pale French limestone and lined with cool, smoky green glass. Efficient functioning is worth millions to British Airways and the new building was designed to combine its oper-

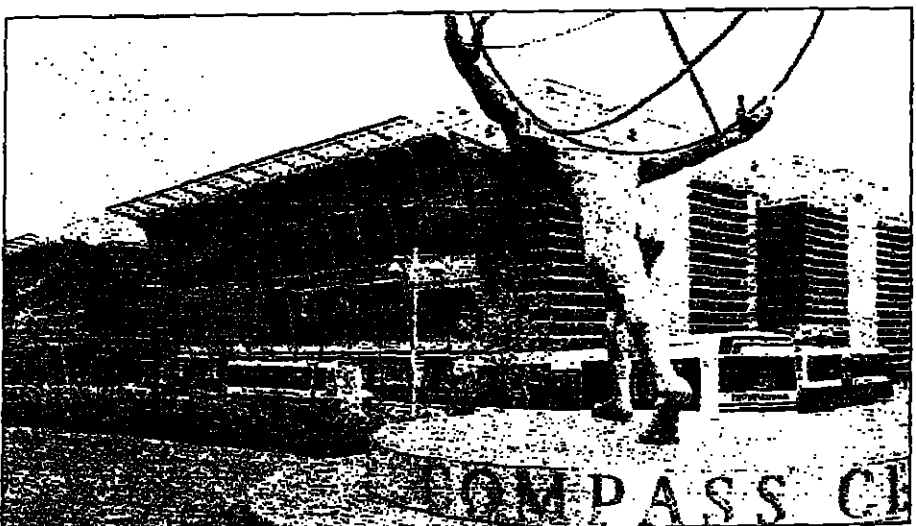
ations control with a new reporting centre for its flight and cabin crew.

Operations control covers what must be one of the most demanding tasks in the business — directing and co-ordinating BA's 250 aircraft, 14,000 crew and 1,000 flights a day, not only at Heathrow, but all over the world.

The Compass Centre also caters for the 3,000 crew members who pass through Heathrow every day, each bound for different destinations, at different times and with different briefing requirements. The building brings together the flight and cabin crew and dispatches them to the right aircraft, fully briefed for the flight and on time.

It is no good working in the airline business if you're not the punctual sort because delays of just ten minutes can cost millions. If the escalator at Compass Centre were to break down, for example, the crew would be late leaving the building, the aircraft would be late departing and the related damage to schedules could cause losses of hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of pounds.

Grimshaw had to invest many hours coming to understand BA's specialist requirements for this building. Not only did it need to be "invisible", but on opening it had to be fully functional and fully dependable immediately — and with absolutely no room for error. The Compass Centre will be open to the public on September 14 and 15 as part of Heritage Open Days '96. Inquiries to 0891 600 061.



British Airways' Compass Centre at Heathrow, designed to be radar-invisible



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STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

Shares fall again as US rate rise pressure grows

EQUITY and bond prices on both sides of the Atlantic continued to lose ground as pressure for a rise in US interest rates intensified.

Another stream of economic data provided further evidence that the US economy is gathering pace. A sharp leap in the Chicago Purchasing Managers' Index for August, and a stronger than expected rise in factory orders and personal incomes increased the pressure.

Lawrence Lindsey, Federal Reserve Board Governor, added fuel to the debate by saying that the current pace of economic growth provided an increasing risk of inflation. His comments came just a day after a sharp upward revision of growth estimates.

The London market opened lower, reflecting a 65-point fall overnight in New York and attempts at a mid-morning rally soon ran out of steam with the Dow Jones continuing to fall sharply in early trading yesterday.

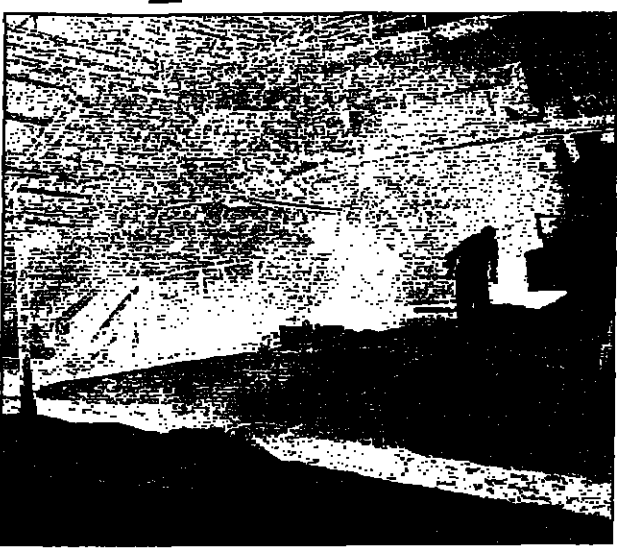
London took a philosophical view, claiming that the market had behaved well considering Wall Street had fallen more than 100 points in two days. The FT-SE 100 index finished 17.4 points down at 3,867.6, stretching the fall on the shortened week to 39.9.

An early markdown in Blenheim appeared justified, with the company confirming just before the close of business that bid talks with an unnamed suitor had broken down.

An announcement from Blenheim said it had not received any proposals which could be recommended to shareholders. The group said its performance during the first six months of 1996 had been "very strong".

The shares ended the session 16p down at 386p with brokers predicting they could fall as low as 350p as the market reflects further on the breakdown in talks. The two names most closely linked to Blenheim were United News & Media, publisher of the Daily Express, down 2 1/2p at 716p, and Reed International, down 1 1/2p at 300p.

GEC and its partner Alstom of France are considering merging their joint-venture GEC Alstom with Framatome, France's state-controlled nuclear power station manufacturer. Such a deal would create a £6 billion company with annual turn-



British Steel held steady after offers for forgings division

over of £9.8 billion producing both nuclear and conventional power stations. GEC rose 5 1/2p to 385 1/2p.

Abbey National finished 6 1/2p lower at 592 1/2p after it emerged that the company had sent out letters to 40,000 borrowers giving them the wrong loan rates.

Northern Ireland Electricity, down 7 1/2p at 335p, is threatening to refer its dispute

Midlands, 7p to 575p. London, 7p to 630p, Northern Electric, 6 1/2p to 537p, Southern, 6p to 672p and Yorkshire, 6 1/2p to 768p.

Asda, the supermarket chain, bounced back with a rise of 2 1/2p to 112 1/2p as a clutch of brokers spoke positively about the shares to their clients. SBC Warburg likes them and says they could soon touch 130p. Kleinwort Benson

If Firecrest fails to find replacement advisers within a month, its share listing will be cancelled. The company says it will then endeavour to provide a similar trading facility on Oxfex, the independent market.

First Information fell another 22 1/2p to 67 1/2p on the back of this week's warning about a sharp drop in sales.

Visual Action, the film and television equipment group, climbed another 15p to 227 1/2p on reflection of this week's bumper set of interim figures. GILF-EDP, Prices last group, during the afternoon on the back of weaker US treasury bonds and growing pressure for a rise in US interest rates. In the futures pit the September series of the long gilt retreated £1.6 to £107 as the total number of contracts reached 48,000, with investors rolling over into the December series. In longs, Treasury 8 per cent lost £1.4 at £97 1/2, while at the shorter end Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was £1.4 easier at £103 1/2.

NEW YORK: Strong figures on the US economy undermined bonds and raised fears once more of interest rate rises. By midday the Dow Jones Industrial average was 46.24 points lower at 5,601.41.

MOVERS OF THE WEEK

Current Price	Change	Reason
Prism Rail	+300p	Preferred bidder in rail sell-off
Darby Group	+108 1/2p	Bid acceptance
Lloyds Abbey	+55 1/2p	101p drop in sales looking for money
35 Fuel Oil	+87 1/2p	Profits warning
Tring International	+18p	Interim losses
Stagecoach	+52 1/2p	Buying before AGM
Photo-Me	+13 1/2p	Profits setback
Pearson	+65p	Buying on talk of break-up

COMMODITIES

Commodity	Price	Change
COCA	21.00	+0.01
Dec	20.98	+0.01
Mar	20.95	+0.01
Jul	20.92	+0.01
Nov	20.89	+0.01
Volume	331.34	

Commodity	Price	Change
ROBUSTA COFFEE	1540.15	+10.00
Dec	1530.00	+10.00
Mar	1520.00	+10.00
Jul	1510.00	+10.00
Nov	1500.00	+10.00
Volume	123.2	

Commodity	Price	Change
WHITE SUGAR (FOB)	37.5-37.6	
Dec	37.5-37.6	
Mar	37.5-37.6	
Jul	37.5-37.6	
Nov	37.5-37.6	
Volume	123.2	

Commodity	Price	Change
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION	107.43	+0.07
Dec	107.43	+0.07
Mar	107.43	+0.07
Jul	107.43	+0.07
Nov	107.43	+0.07
Volume	123.2	

Commodity	Price	Change
OFFICIAL (Volume per day)	107.43	+0.07
Dec	107.43	+0.07
Mar	107.43	+0.07
Jul	107.43	+0.07
Nov	107.43	+0.07
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Volume	123.2	

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):
Dow Jones 5601.41 (-46.24)
S&P Composite 851.54 (-5.58)

Tokyo:
Nikkei Average 20166.90 (-386.24)
Hang Seng 11159.02 (-166.19)

Amsterdam:
EEX Index 550.99 (-7.94)
Sydney:
ASX 2264.7 (-10.4)

Frankfurt:
DAX 2518.33 (-10.23)
Singapore:
Straits 2153.54 (-4.11)

Brussels:
General 9422.55 (-46.07)
Paris:
CAC-40 1970.61 (-6.95)

Zurich:
SIX 760.00 (-6.20)

London:
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TEMPUS Powerful alliance



SICK LEAVE 33

Health policies that don't reach all the parts

WEEKEND MONEY

PENSION PLEA 37

Pressure grows for a change in the rules



Pensioners take on GEC over health benefits

Caroline Merrell reports on a three-year fight to regain insurance cover lost after a takeover

The £10 million pay package awarded to George Simpson, the new managing director of GEC, the electronics group, has enraged hundreds of pensioners who have been fighting the electronics giant over lost retirement benefits.

In a package that has rekindled the row over fat-cat salary deals, Mr Simpson will receive a £500,000 signing up fee, a £600,000 annual salary for a minimum of three years, a bonus of up to £300,000, share options worth up to £1 million, and a pension fund that will accumulate to £3 million over five years. The generosity of his package contrasts starkly with the treatment of about 2,000 pensioners, who were employed by Plessey, which was taken over by GEC and Siemens in 1989.

A group of these pensioners, former blue and white-collar workers, has been involved in a three-year legal wrangle with GEC over the scrapping of free private medical care in retirement worth millions of pounds that had been enjoyed by all Plessey employees for more than three decades. GEC offered the pensioners a Norwich Union health care scheme for which they had to pay. GEC claims it could not afford to continue to offer the previous benefits.

Among those affected by GEC's action to remove the medical care is Sir John Clark,

former chairman of Plessey. Sir John, whose father founded Plessey in the 1920s, suffered a stroke last November. The 70-year old received private medical treatment in London. As well as being treated for the stroke itself, he was also put through a rehabilitation programme. Lady Clark, his 50-year-old wife, tried to claim for the treatment on the Norwich Union health care policy which all Plessey employees had been offered after the takeover by GEC.

"My husband was treated at hospitals in London and received extensive rehabilitation therapy at the Devonshire Hospital for two months. After treatment, I tried to claim on the health insurance policy."

Lady Clark found that of the total £27,340 bill for medical treatment, the policy covered only £2,413. Under the old Plessey scheme, all the expenses would have been covered. Lady Clark is understandably aggrieved, pointing out that her husband had worked at Plessey for 40 years. "It is an absolute disgrace, not just for my husband, but for all the other Plessey pensioners. The benefit was for all members of staff. The company always had a good relationship with its staff. Private medical insurance should be exactly that, and cover all illnesses."

The plight of the Plessey pensioners has been taken up

by Kenneth Lilley, another Plessey pensioner who ran its Liverpool factory. He is spearheading a campaign by more than 400 pensioners and is hoping to bring a High Court action to have the benefits reinstated and to get compensation for lost benefits. Mr Lilley is particularly angry at the time the case has taken to get to court. He is expecting the court to set a date for a hearing in October. The pensioners have already paid £75,000 into court to cover their costs, should they lose.

He points out that the process has taken so long, many of the pensioners have died. Three years ago the Plessey pensioner group had 483 members. But he adds that the estates of deceased pensioners will receive compensation if the action group wins.

GEC said post-retirement benefits were supplied on a voluntary basis. The company, which has a £1 billion cash pile, added that because of growing costs it had decided to discontinue offering free private medical care.

Pensioners can take heart from a recent case involving Philips, the electronics group. The High Court decided the company had been wrong to withdraw private medical benefits enjoyed by its pensioners. Philips was forced to pay costs and compensation.

Anne Ashworth, page 32
A Question of money, page 32



Powerful ally: Lady Clark, wife of the former Plessey chairman, fighting for the restoration of health cover

New credit card terms will be imposed on Which?

One week after the Consumers' Association launched its Which? credit card, Beneficial Bank, the card issuer, has announced changes to the terms and conditions of all its cards, which will result in its cardholders paying more interest.

From September 16, interest will be charged from the date of transaction or purchase, not the date on which the issuer posts the transaction to the account. Effectively, that means those who do not pay off their balance in full each month will have to pay an extra day or two of interest.

Beneficial Bank runs about 80 affinity card schemes, including the Which? card, as well as a Visa card. A few other issuers, including GM, MBNA and American Express, do charge from the transaction date, but most charge from the posting date.

"The change affects all our cards and brings us into line with other players in the market, such as Marks & Spencer and Girobank," said Sue Jones, Beneficial Bank's marketing manager.

One industry analyst calculates that Beneficial will gain at least an extra £250,000 in interest. He said: "Through borrowers will be charged just a few days' more interest, the large number of transactions and cardholders means the interest adds up to a tidy amount for the company. This could set a precedent for other issuers to follow suit. Surely the Consumers' Association wouldn't want to be party to that."

A spokeswoman for the Consumers' Association said: "We cannot comment on Beneficial Bank's general practice."

SARAH JONES

Weekend Money is edited by Anne Ashworth

Capitalise on tax concessions

As the Budget approaches there will be the usual calls for tax cuts for the low-paid and the elderly. However, these groups could today be starting a £500 million tax refund if they were making use of existing Inland Revenue concessions. These allow those with incomes below the tax thresholds not to pay 20 per cent tax on their bank and building society interest, and to reclaim the tax deducted from dividend payments.

Despite an Inland Revenue campaign to encourage children, pensioners, part-time workers and housewives to register their accounts to receive interest gross (before the deduction of tax), millions remain unaware of the dispensation.

Renewing its attempts to

alert them of their rights, the Revenue has this week issued a new version of its booklet, *A Guide for People with Savings*. This sets out the procedures to register an account to receive gross interest, or to claim a tax refund.

The Inland Revenue guide explains that the people eligible for tax-free interest are those whose income is below the level of their personal allowances or thresholds, which are revised each year in the Budget. These figures include every type of income, including earnings from a job, some state benefits and bank and building society interest.

Savers must calculate their total gross interest. This means that they must take the amount of taxed interest they have received and add the amount of tax deducted. This

information may be difficult to obtain, another disincentive to making a claim.

Once they have established that they qualify for tax-free interest, they must register each one of their accounts with the Revenue by completing form IR85. Parents must complete the form on the child's behalf.

Those who have paid unnecessary tax can stake their claim to a refund on form R40. This should also be used to claim back the 20 per cent tax deducted from dividends. The Revenue promises that those baffled by the process can seek the help of their local tax inquiry office.

The personal allowance for a single person under the age of 65 or a married woman under 65 is £3,765 a year in income before paying tax.

This rises to £5,107 a year for a married man, under 65, receiving the married couple's allowance. A single parent caring for a child is entitled to the additional personal allowance of £1,790 and can also earn £5,107.

Higher allowances are given to pensioners. Between the ages of 65 and 74, a single person, married woman, widow or widower can have £4,910 of tax-free income. A married man can have £7,246. Those aged 75 or more can claim £5,090 (single person, married woman, widow or widower) and £7,456 (married man). In the year they are bereaved and in the following year, widows of all ages can claim the widow's bereavement allowance of £1,790.

ANNE ASHWORTH

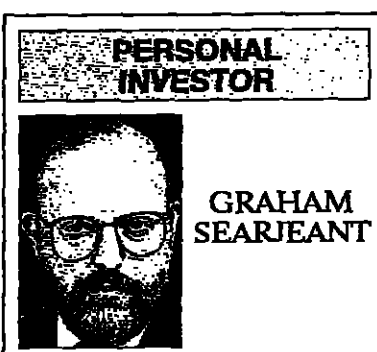
Railway safety under threat

When should you sell a company's shares? The art is much neglected compared with the analysis devoted to buying. Legendary investors each have their own nostrum. One says run your profits and cut your losses. Another says stand back and ignore the crowd. Selling decisions are harder, too, because emotions come into play. Many small investors never sell unless there is a takeover bid. We are loyal souls and inertia reinforces loyalty. No short-termism here.

If things are going well, we don't see any reason to jump ship. If they go badly, we fondly imagine something will turn up to justify our original buying decision. That is why British Telecom and British Gas still have about four million small shareholders, held ever since privatisation, although most of us realise objectively that we should have sold long ago.

These things matter. Over the past month, the top 100 shares gained an average 5 per cent, but bank share rose 10 to 15 per cent while Hanson, BAT and several others fell. If the economy remains stable, with low inflation, stock-picking will become more important relative to overall market trends.

Those who bought shares in Railtrack, as recommended here, have seen them outperform the index convincingly in partly-paid form since they were floated in May. But the Railtrack sale was widely tipped only as a short-term investment. The Government had to sell the shares cheaply because rail privatisation was unpopular and Labour was making the usual threatening



PERSONAL INVESTOR

GRAHAM SEARJEANT

rumblings. Small investors might as well pocket the Labour discount.

As the average investor expected Labour to be in power within a year, the sale was also structured to give earlier dividends than normal as an extra sweetener. A final dividend of 13.75p a share is due in October for the year to March 31, 1996, even though the company was not floated until mid-May. An interim dividend of about 7p is due in February, ahead of the second instalment on the shares in June.

That big October dividend is, however, payable only to owners registered by September 4, so the shares are now traded without the dividend. It is time for a review. Investors who paid the 190p small-investor rate are certainly doing well. They are sitting on a capital profit of more than a quarter (20 per cent on the full price). Add in the dividend and you have made a third on your money in less than four months.

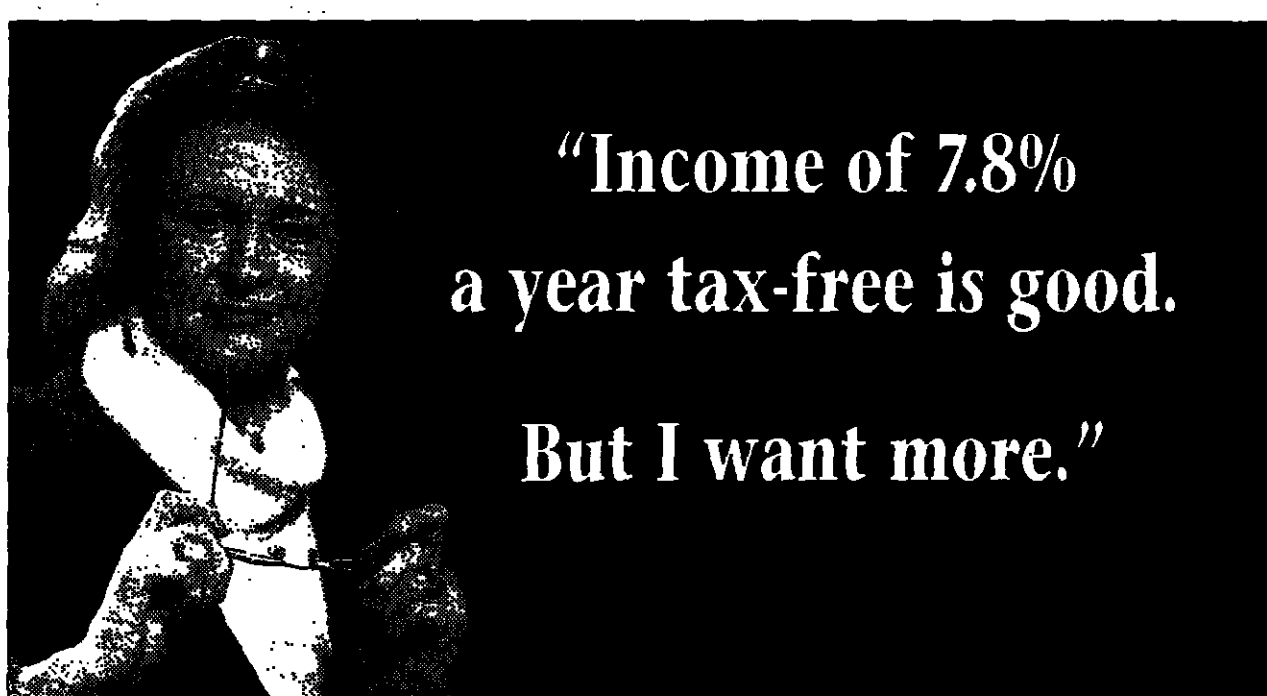
On one trading theory, you should be

running your Railtrack profits and instead selling British Energy, which has been a flop so far, but is soon due a hefty dividend. These, however, are one-off returns because of timing and the leverage on partly paid shares. In notional fully-paid form, Railtrack shares have risen a more modest 10 per cent and, allowing for healthy dividend rises, yield less than 7 per cent.

Railtrack is investing, cutting costs, bringing back trade to stations and helping train service companies to attract more passengers. Profits should advance. In terms of earnings or dividends, Railtrack shares are still humbly valued. But do they pass the test? The objective way is to ask yourself whether you would buy at this price, knowing what you do now.

Labour could have stopped the sale. Instead, it made feeble, impractical threats unlikely to have much impact before contracts run out after 2000. With a Blairite now at the Shadow Transport desk, those may well be dropped. And Labour cannot honestly come up with draconian new measures beyond including Railtrack in a utility levy.

The trouble is that no one knows. As election frenzy nears, uncertainty will grow. Markets hate uncertainty. Railtrack will be caught up in anti-utility rhetoric, making its shares riskier for the duration. Unless you want another long-term investment in a state-controlled utility, it would be safer to cash Railtrack gains at around 240p. Let someone else enjoy the February bonus and any post-election relief.



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Jam tomorrow but none for yesterday's men

The pension arrangements are the most eye-catching details in the £10 million remuneration package awarded to George Simpson, GEC's new managing director. Clever Mr Simpson has ensured for himself jam tomorrow, as well as a £600,000 wage packet today. Like the average employee, Mr Simpson can contribute at most 15 per cent of salary to his company pension scheme. He is also bound by the £82,200 earnings cap which limits pension benefits.

However, thanks to the endeavours of a team of ingenious actuaries and the apparent wish of GEC to secure his services whatever the price, Mr Simpson will achieve a much more handsome retirement income. As we explain in *A Question of Money*, right, such munificent arrangements are entirely legal. But some carry no guarantee, depending on the company's future ability to fund the scheme.

The terms of his deal mean that Mr Simpson's comfortable retirement is assured. GEC has, however, been less generous to other pensioners, the former employees of Plessey, which it took over in 1989. Plessey pensioners, whether they had spent their life on the shopfloor or in the executive suite, were given private medical insurance as a retirement perk.

After GEC's takeover, this was withdrawn by the company and replaced with a scheme for which former employees had to pay. The Plessey pensioners have pledged £75,000 worth of their own money to fight GEC's decision through the courts. Their struggle is being led by Kenneth Lilley, a former Plessey factory head.

One of those affected is Sir John Clark, Mr Lilley's former chairman. Since he suffered a stroke, Sir John has incurred more than £20,000 worth of medical expenses. As we explain on page 31, only £2,000 of this will be met by the Norwich Union policy taken out by his wife as a substitute for his company cover. As the stroke has robbed him of the



COMMENT
ANNE ASHWORTH
Personal Finance Editor

power of speech, he cannot voice his anger at the inducements being given to Mr Simpson which so contrast with the shabby treatment of former loyal employees. It has been left to his wife to plead the injustice of their case and express the anxiety felt in other more humble homes.

While doubtless preoccupied with the GEC Alsthom merger, Mr Simpson should seek to resolve this problem, before other pensioners fall sick. If he does not want to lose his tough guy image, he need only cite the example of Philips, another electronics business that sought to dispossess pensioners. The courts took the pensioners' side.

Beneficial for whom?

Last week we forecast that *Which?*'s decision to launch its own credit card might cause the consumer championing magazine some embarrassment. Our prophecy has been fulfilled with indecent haste.

This week (page 31) we report that Beneficial Bank, the *Which?* card issuer, has changed its terms in a way beneficial only to itself. Henceforth interest will be charged from the day a purchase is made, rather than the date on which Beneficial records the transaction. The result will be extra interest for those who use their cards to

borrow. What is more, they will start to pay interest even before the retailer receives his money from Beneficial.

None of the big card companies, such as Barclaycard, has adopted this strategy although most would admit that, if times grew hard, they would be sorely tempted to follow Beneficial's lead. *Which?* professed to know nothing of the magazine's seal of approval were put on a practice that enabled card companies to boost the already excessive amounts of interest they earn from customers.

Nearest may be dearest

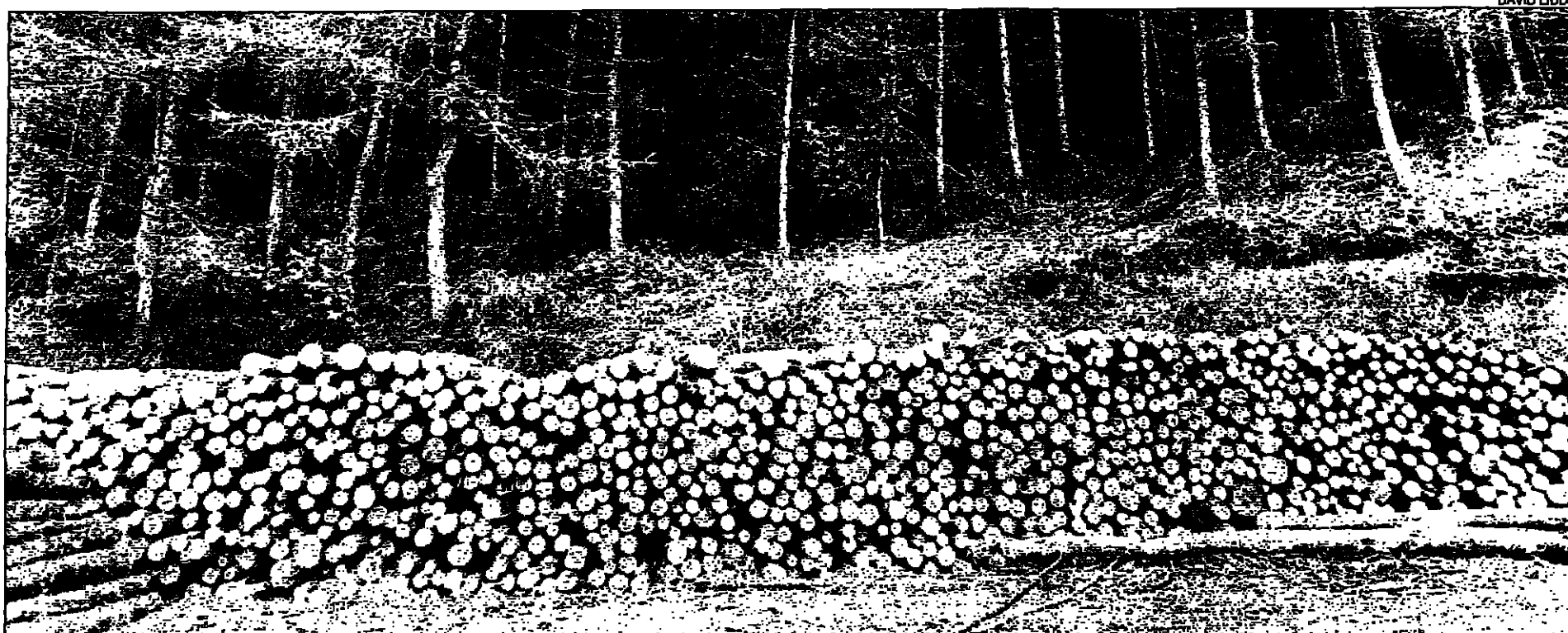
Other card companies will this weekend allow themselves a self-satisfied smirk at *Which?*'s expense. NatWest, however, has no room for complacency. To make sure it gets its money in spite of this weekend's postal strike, the bank's card division has suggested customers make payments at their "local branch". This has irked a Lancashire reader of *The Times* whose nearest branch is now some miles distant. In view of the 723 branch closures since 1992, he suggests that the bank should use the words "nearest branch", or "least distant".

Paper chase

The struggle for control of the Kleinwort Benson European Privatisation Investment Trust (Kepit) must by now have cost the lives of a thousand trees. But more will die yet to provide paper for the war of proposals now being waged for the trust (see page 34). Kepit's 77,000 investors, assailed by documents, should not act on the exhortation of Henderson Touche Remnant to respond now to its offer. They should instead press the Kepit board to provide information on all the bids once they have been evaluated. A synopsis should suffice.

Caroline Merrell looks at the tax advantages of an investment in forestry and how to go about it

Money really does grow on trees



Anyone driving through the borders of Scotland or the rolling countryside in the foothills of Wales cannot fail to notice the neat rows of Norway spruce and Sitka — the result of nearly 80 years of reforestation.

The sight of miles upon miles of such forests provokes differing reactions. Though some people believe they are not as pleasing to the eye as the random arrangement of more traditional woods comprising of oak, sycamore, beech and birch, to others, they represent an extremely tax-efficient method of investing.

Demand for timber is growing — its price is predominantly linked to the US residential property market, where many houses are constructed of timber frames clad with weatherboarding. Over the past year or so, this sector has been showing some recovery, and price of wood has been rising. Both capital and income re-

turns for investors in forestry are generated when the trees are felled and sold. Tax breaks for those prepared to invest in forestry are as follows:

INCOME TAX

All income from timber sales in the UK is free of income tax. Some forestry schemes typically yield about 7 per cent income. On a £10,000 investment, made by a higher-rate taxpayer, this tax break could save £280 a year.

CAPITAL GAINS TAX

Growing timber is exempt from capital gains tax. Roll-over relief is also available for forestry land. This means that, for instance, an investor could reinvest the proceeds from selling a business and defer paying capital gains tax. The first £6,300 of capital gains is tax-exempt anyway.

INHERITANCE TAX

After two years of ownership, investments in woodland qualify for relief.

Those interested in investing in trees can do so in two different ways. They can either do so directly via one of the many different forestry companies, or they can invest via a collective investment scheme, which in turn will invest in different forests. Investment in forestry falls outside the Financial Services Act which means that investors will not be protected in the event of bankruptcy or fraud. Financial advisers point out that potential investors should be prepared to leave their money tied up for more than ten years, as it takes this long for the trees and the investments to come to maturity.

One of the companies offering collective investment schemes is Forestry Investment Management

of Burford, Oxfordshire. FIM has a number of trusts which will allow investors to buy an interest in a group of forestry sites. For example, it offers the FIM Forestry Trust 2010. The trust aims for a minimum annual return of 6.9 per cent tax-free. The trust provides an annual tax-free income of 9.5 per cent and will mature in 2010. Minimum investment is £10,000.

Richard Crosbie Dawson, FIM director, said: "We have noticed a significant increase in investor interest over the past six months. Investors are planning for the threat of higher tax rates." He added that the trust had been oversubscribed.

Another company which offers investment in forestry is Neil Clark Capital. It is currently offering the Timber Lands III distribution fund. This trust has a much lower minimum investment at £1,000 and will distribute a tax-free income of 8 per

cent, equivalent to 13.33 per cent for higher-rate taxpayers. The scheme is the third such plan offered by the company.

Those who want to invest directly in forests can go through one of the many forestry companies such as Fountain Forestry based in Oxfordshire, and Scottish Woodland, based in Edinburgh.

Simon Verdon, Fountain Forestry's group marketing manager, said: "Forestry is a very illiquid investment. Only those who are fully invested in all other types of security should consider it as a way of diversifying their portfolios. Only those who do not mind tying up their money for years should consider it."

In forestry terms, the UK has a big advantage over other countries. It has a good tax regime, excellent growth opportunities and a good modernised processing industry," he added.

A QUESTION OF MONEY

How to arrange your fat-cat sized pension

The fat cats got the cream again this week as George Simpson was lured from his job at Lucas to become managing director of GEC, the engineering group, with a salary and pensions package worth up to £10 million over five years.

How do these people do it? Are there no limits on how much they can earn, and most importantly how much they can put into their pensions? If so, how do they get round them? We give you some answers to questions you may be asking about how to improve your own pension prospects.

Q Are there not rules about how much you can put into your pension?

A Yes, there are limits both on how much you can contribute and how much you can receive. There is an earnings "cap" which is currently £82,200. You cannot take more than two thirds of this, £54,800, as a pension if you are in a scheme which pays pension benefits as a proportion of salary. If you are in an occupational pension which pays benefits depending on contributions rather than salary, you can put aside up to 15 per cent of your salary up to £82,200. If you have a personal pension, you can put a maximum of 17.5 per cent of your salary up to £82,200 aside (rising to 40 per cent over the age of 61) into your pension. The level of the cap usually rises in line with inflation.

Q In that case, how come some high earners seem to be able to negotiate pensions of hundreds of thousands or even millions of pounds? Are they on some dodge?

A No, it's all perfectly legal. The limits relate to how much you can put into your pension and still get tax relief. Pensions offer some of the most generous tax breaks around to tempt people to save for their retirement. You qualify for tax relief at your highest rate on contributions, pension investment rolls up tax free and you can take part of your pension as a tax-free lump sum. Nigel Lawson introduced the earnings cap in 1989 in a bid to limit generous tax breaks to well-off executives.

Now, as soon as you exceed the limits, you no longer qualify for tax relief. But this does not mean you and your employer have to stop funding your pension.

Q Do you mean unlimited amounts?

A As the Inland Revenue says: "Benefits outside the confines of the tax privileged system are unlimited". The only limit is on how much your employ-

er is prepared to pay, which depends on how keen he is to secure your services.

Q So how does this top-up pension work?

A In theory you can negotiate whatever type of contract you like because you are outside the tax regime. But in practice there are two main types of scheme. Both are known as "unapproved" schemes because they do not qualify for tax relief under Revenue rules. Unapproved schemes can be either funded or unfunded or a combination.

Q So what is the difference then?

A With an unfunded scheme you are relying on your employer to keep his promise in your contract that he will pay you a certain pension when you retire. No contributions are invested and no assets are set aside. The difficulty with this is that you have no guarantee that company will not go under, leaving you with no pension.

By contrast with a funded scheme, you and/or your employer make contributions to the scheme and these are invested. The scheme is set up under trust. It is essentially like any other occupational pension scheme writ small and operated only for you (or possibly you and a few other high-flyers, depending on how it is organised). There will be a trust deed setting out your benefit entitlements and those of your dependants and what contributions you and your employer have to pay. In the case of Mr Simpson, for example, his trust promises to "accumulate a sufficient amount to enable a sum of not less than 1.24 times pensionable salary for each complete year of pensionable service up to a maximum of five years". Trustees may include you and your employer. You do not get tax relief on your contributions. You are also taxed on your employer's contributions as a benefit in kind. The fund is subject to tax.

Q My existing employer has offered me a much better job but he has told me he can give me the pension deal I want without setting up an unapproved scheme. Is he right?

A Yes, if you have been a member of the same scheme since June 1989, when the earnings cap was first introduced. If you are still working for the same employer you are exempt from the cap. But as soon as you leave you will be subjected to it and will have to negotiate a new unapproved scheme arrangement as part of your contract.

SARA MCCONNELL

THE TIMES
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Jody Brett Kelly asks whether permanent health insurance is a waste of money



Illogical illness: Roger Wellman and his company were unable to convince Sun Life of Canada of his condition in spite of his £100 a week invalidity benefit

Policies that go on sick leave

A flood of calls has followed our story three weeks ago about a man who won a £1 million lawsuit against UNUM, the permanent health insurer. Robert Napier fought a ten-year battle against UNUM, which constantly questioned his claims that he had a debilitating rheumatic illness.

In spite of reports from specialists who confirmed his illness, UNUM has challenged him since 1985 and stopped paying in 1994.

Now Times readers say they have also found it difficult to convince their health insurer that they are ill. This questions the real worth of permanent health policies which are supposed to pay out if the policyholder is unable to work.

In reality the insurer can easily turn down the policyholder, who must then take the matter to court.

Roger Wellman, 51, a former sales representative for a furniture company in High Wycombe, was forced to go on sick leave after his wrists became painful. Because part of his job involved carrying heavy samples, he was unable to work. His firm paid his full salary of £17,600 a year from August 1991 to December 1993,

less invalidity benefit. The firm had a group PHI policy with Sun Life of Canada, which was supposed to pay two thirds of salary to physically or mentally ill employees.

But Mr Wellman and his company were unable to convince Sun Life of Canada of his illness, in spite of psychological reports that stress and anxiety were causing the pain in his wrists. Mr Wellman was also receiving £100 a week invalidity benefit, which he would not have done without satisfying the Department of Social Security he was ill.

His company terminated his employment in December 1993, saying he was incapable of doing his job. Because Mr Wellman, of Burnham-on-Sea,

company had not had a PHI scheme I would have taken out my own policy."

Sun Life of Canada said: "We cannot comment on this case because Mr Wellman is not our client. His former employer is."

A spokesman from Cornwall Parker, his former employer, said: "We have been battling as hard as we can for Mr Wellman and we will continue to do so."

In another case, John Mutch, 54, worked as a personnel director for Allied Bakeries in Staines from 1987, earning a salary of £61,000 a year plus benefits.

But in December 1991 he started suffering from severe breathing problems. His firm paid his full salary for four months.

A specialist reported that Mr Mutch, of Buckinghamshire, had sleep apnoea, which makes it difficult to breathe during sleep. Shortly afterwards, in April 1992, his employment was terminated by the company, which said it was restructuring. Unfortunately, because he had been worried about losing his job Mr Mutch had asked his doctor to sign a letter saying he was able to go back to work.

His company said it would not put in a claim to the health insurer, UNUM, with which it had a policy.

For two years Mr Mutch received invalidity benefit, supported by letters from his GP. By summer 1994 he was diagnosed as having a gluten intolerance which accounted for his severe tiredness.

Treatment has enabled him to find a job with a charity. Mr Mutch says: "I had no rights

against UNUM, and the Insurance Ombudsman can't help me because the policy is not held by me but my former employer. It is all so frustrating."

Allied Bakeries says: "In this case we do not accept there was a claim to be made. John did not satisfy the policy conditions."

Next week: new series, Everything You Need to Know About Health Insurance.

Victory on illness insurance



How Weekend Money broke the story three weeks ago

Somerset, no longer worked for the company he lost his claim on its PHI policy.

He said: "I have had to sell all my insurance policies and endowments and use my savings to pay off my £35,000 mortgage. I have always believed that you have to look after yourself, and if my

breath during sleep. Shortly afterwards, in April 1992, his employment was terminated by the company, which said it was restructuring. Unfortunately, because he had been worried about losing his job Mr Mutch had asked his doctor to sign a letter saying he was able to go back to work.

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Varied options for Abbey National's new shareholders

Abbey National is encouraging its new shareholders — those reaping the benefits of the National & Provincial takeover — to transfer their shares into its corporate Pep. What a shame that the vast majority have holdings too small to make such a Pep worthwhile. By this weekend most ex-N&P customers should have received their share certificates. All borrowers and savers of less than two years' standing — 438,000 members in all — will be entitled to £500 worth. A further 184,000 members of more than two years' standing opted to take shares rather than the cash bonus. Their average payout is £1,323.

If shareholders want to follow Abbey's advice, they have to move quickly. Bonus shares have to be transferred into a corporate Pep within 42 days of allotment (in this case August 5), minus a seven-day cooling-off period. That means next Friday is the deadline.

By moving so quickly you can avoid the charges normally incurred when the shares have to be sold and then bought again to include them in a Pep. For the direct transfer of bonus shares into the Abbey National Corporate Pep there is a flat charge of £15 plus VAT. The annual management charge is 0.6 per cent.

Whether or not you should go for the corporate Pep option depends on the size of your allocation, says Mark Bolland of Chamberlain de Broe, the independent financial advisers. He adds: "If you have a decent-sized holding and can make it up to the full £3,000 allowance, it is worth putting it in a Pep, especially if you are a higher-rate taxpayer. If you have just £500 worth of shares you have to question whether it makes sense to incur the transfer charges and to use up your Pep allowance."

A single company Pep can



tains the shares of just one company but has all the capital gains and income tax advantages of a standard Pep. You can invest £3,000 a year in a single company Pep, on top of your general Pep allowance of £6,000. A corporate Pep is a single company Pep sponsored by the company issuing the shares.

If you decide not to go for a corporate Pep, your alternatives are to keep the shares or sell them. "The shares are not a saving buy, nor are they a sell. Unless you have a pressing need for the money, hold on to them," says Trevor Smith of Waters Lunniss, the brokers. "Lots of little bits of selling by N&P customers will send the share price down over the next few weeks, but once that is out of the way, the shares will be back to reflecting the stock market generally."

If you do want to sell, you may make a small profit if you sell quickly or wait until the price recovers from the expected dip. You have been given 89 shares based on a share price of 567.35p. Sell them at today's price of 606p and you make £34.39. Unfortunately most of that will be wiped out by dealing charges.

Abbey National's own service, through Sharelink, costs a minimum £24.50. Waters Lunniss (01603 622265) is offering to sell Abbey National shares for a flat £20 throughout September.

SARAH JONES

Caroline Merrell looks at the prospects for investors who are considering index-tracking funds

Optimism reigns on UK market

At the beginning of the year, the most optimistic followers of the UK stock market were predicting that the FT-SE 100 index would reach the 3,800 barrier by the year's end, up from 3,600. The more pessimistic felt that there could even be a dip in the market — a drop of 10 per cent was mooted by some.

Now, the expectations of the optimists have been more than met. Many fund managers believe the market could top the 4,000 level by the end of the year, representing a rise in the index of nearly 11 per cent over the 12 months.

Over two years this would represent a rise in the UK stock market of more than 30 per cent — almost unprecedented growth. Since the October crash in 1987, the market has risen by around 200 per cent, showing negative returns in only two of the nine years.

Anyone who invested through a fund that bought shares in companies which tracked the index would have made more money than many of those who invested in an actively managed UK fund.

The questions are whether this type of momentum is sustainable and whether UK investors should be investing in index-tracking funds at this particular moment.

Many analysts believe the UK economy is poised for strong growth. The latest retail spending figures show that consumers are feeling confi-

dent enough to return to the shops, while the housing market is showing signs of genuine recovery for the first time in seven years.

However, analysts believe the market could be adversely affected by the general election and a sudden reversal of fortune on Wall Street. Mathew Orr, director of Killik & Co, the brokers, said: "The big risks in the market are that there could be a crack on Wall Street, especially if interest rates go up. Political risk may

Election and Wall Street cast the only real shadows over hopes for strong growth

already be built in to the price of stocks."

John Hatherly, head of research at M&G, is reasonably optimistic about the outlook for the UK economy. "The market is not frightened by Labour. Specific issues may have an effect, like the minimum wage, a possible windfall tax on utilities, and changes to advanced corporation tax. But all of these, in my view, are well priced in to the market."

Mr Hatherly added: "The consumer boom is under way

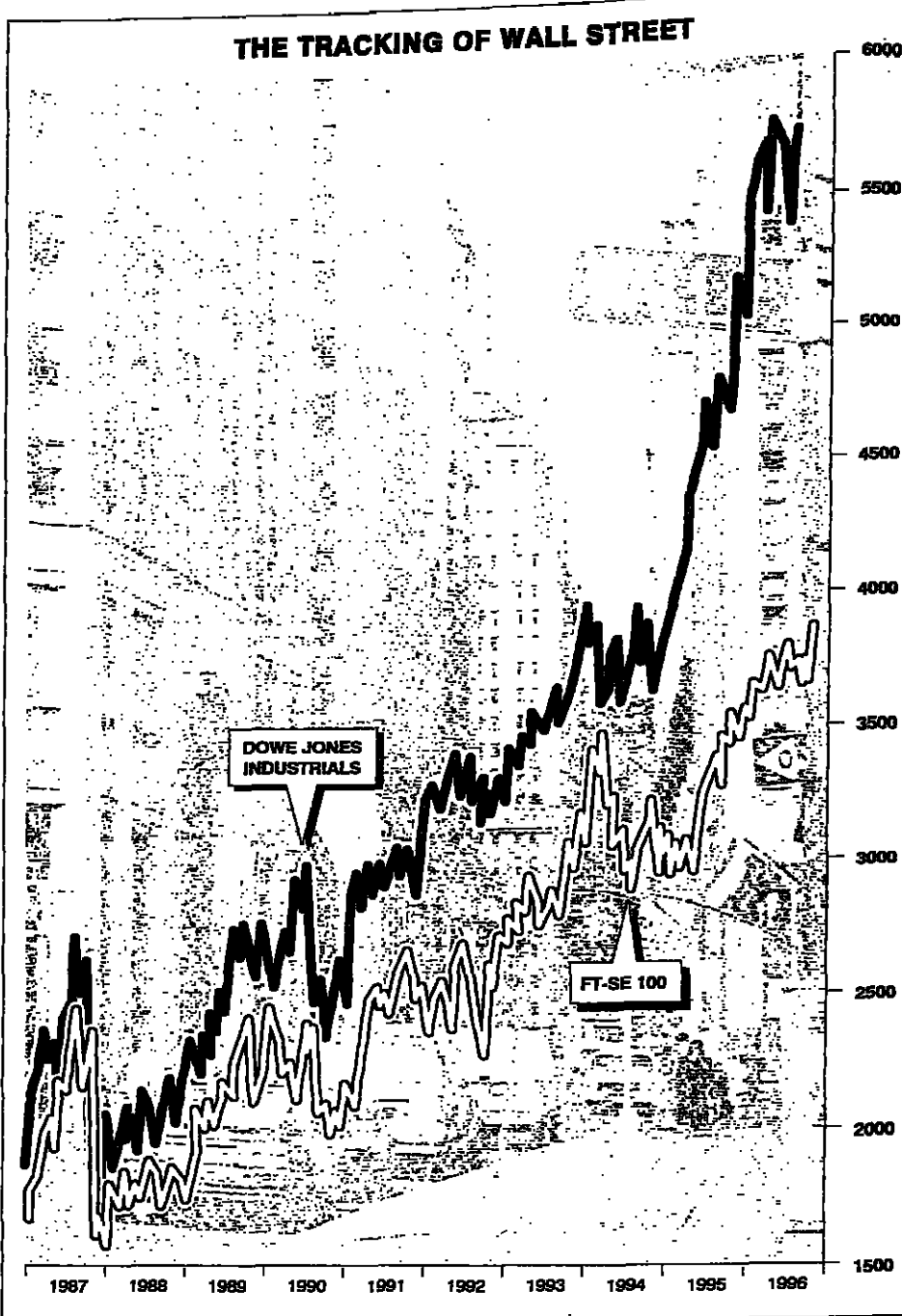
like the 1980s. There is a risk that if the Chancellor cuts interest rates to stoke the boom it could get out of hand."

He also emphasised the effect of Wall Street on the UK, saying: "The UK never acts in isolation. Where Wall Street leads, we will follow. If, for example, Wall Street gets another fit of jitters, we could take a dive."

David Rough, investment director at Legal & General, said: "We are in for a volatile ride. There will more share buybacks and takeover bids prior to a general election. Interest rates will remain low. The market will want to go up and will be affected by political sentiment."

Those convinced about the benefits of index tracking as opposed to active fund management have a wide range of funds and fund managers from which to choose. These funds also tend to be cheap, in comparison to their actively managed counterparts.

Direct Line, Virgin Direct, HSBC, Gartmore, Morgan Grenfell and Legal & General all offer tracking funds. Some offer funds which will track the entire all-share index, other will track the top 100 companies, while others will track indexes comprising medium-sized and smaller companies. Gary Smith, Gartmore director, said: "We would tend to see the biggest growth in the smaller companies' sector." Gartmore has a fund which tracks companies with market capitalisation under £31 million.



Kept investors in the dark over trust's future

In spite of the reassuring noises coming from some of the City's leading houses, such as M&G, Fidelity and Flemings, some 70,000 private investors in the £500 million Kleinwort Benson Privatisation Investment Trust (Kept) are still very much in the dark this weekend about the future of their holding.

The aggressive bid by Henderson Touche Remnant's European Growth investment trust (Treg) for Kept, which sparked the subsequent flurry of interest from the other parties, is the only solid offer on the table — so far. Full marks to Treg, which proposes to offer Kept investors a cash exit or a chance to rollover into the European investment trust, for at least being open enough to show its hand and tell investors what it proposes.

It is a shame that the expressions of interest

from nine other potential bidders or managers are just that as far as investors are concerned. In the past ten days there has been an almost daily drip-feed of low-key announcements of private proposals to Kept's board, which are now being evaluated by Merrill Lynch. Kept's adviser. They do not rank as bids and therefore remain private to Kept and its advisers. According to the investment trust team at Credit Lyonnais Laing, the line-up runs something like this: M&G offers a chance to switch into an in-house unit trust. Barings and Morgan Grenfell have bid for the management contract of the trust, while Old Mutual, the South African insurer, is also offering a switch into one of its funds. In addition, Invesco offers Kept investors a free share switching facility into an in-house trust. Guinness Flight and

Lazard have also submitted proposals, as has Cusitor Alliance, a US subsidiary of Axa, the French insurer. On top of this there is Kleinwort Benson's own plan to unitise Kept with a suitable cash exit, a pre-requisite for any successful bid in this situation.

Earlier this week Flemings was forced to put out a formal announcement that reports that it planned to give back more than 99 per cent of the assets in the underlying portfolio to investors were pure speculation. The rumour is that the Takeover Panel forced the announcement after receiving complaints that proposals submitted in private were becoming a matter of public debate without the strict rules governing formal takeover bids being observed.

The expressions of concern for Kept investors by the City houses submitting

proposals have to be counter-balanced by the fact that garnering funds under management and being able to cross-sell other in-house unit and investment trusts is a matter of survival, something this column has already pointed out. But for investors who still believe in the original investment story of European privatisations, the key consideration is the ability of the fund management houses to get the most out of their money.

Of course, all bets could be off if another bidder is waiting in the wings, as speculation had it this week. SBC Warburg kept the market guessing about its tactics when it first reduced its Kept holding from 8.09 per cent to 7.45 per cent before rising again last night to 8.31 per cent. But why?

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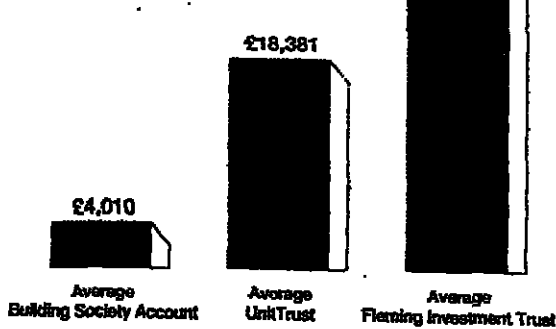
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As interest rates begin to fall, Sarah Jones surveys the best home for your savings

High street hots up for National Savings

It's a sign of the times that National Savings can reduce its rates and still look attractive compared with those on offer from other institutions in the high street. But shop around a little because you can now find a few better rates and avoid the queues at the post office.

Income Bonds: This week the interest rate dropped by 0.25 per cent to 6 per cent gross for balances under £25,000 and 6.25 per cent for above £25,000. Interest is paid monthly and there is a three-month notice period. This is one National Savings account that is hard to beat since good monthly rates do not come easily. The nearest is the relaunched Direct30 from Cheltenham & Gloucester, which pays 5.3 per cent on balances from £5,000-£10,000, 5.75 per cent up to £25,000 and 6.13 per cent over £25,000. The Scarborough's 100-day account pays 5.75 per cent — sadly until three weeks ago it paid 6.25 per cent.

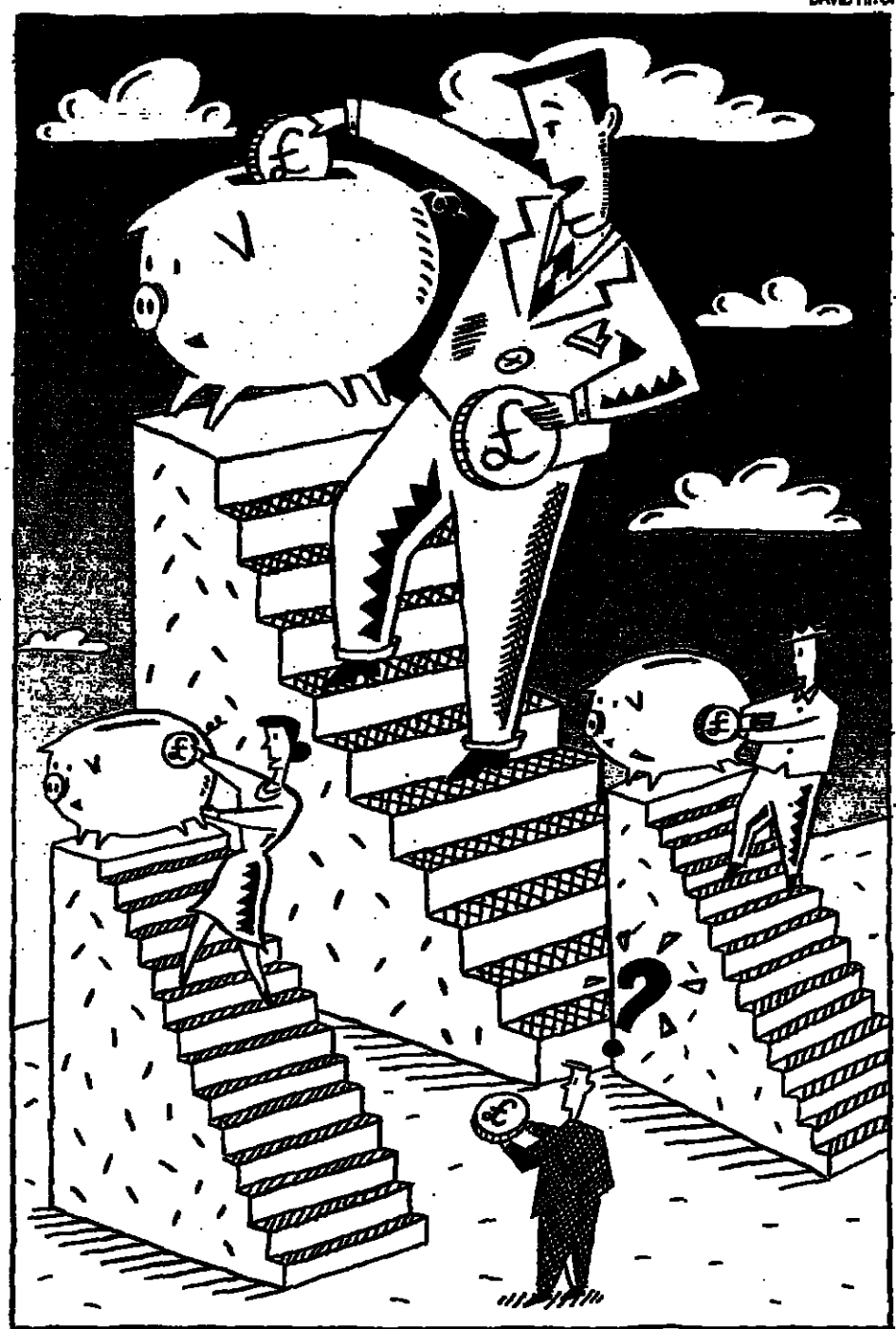
Investment Account: Competition over short-term accounts, fuelled by speculation over base rates and investors' reluctance to commit themselves to long-term products, means this investment can be bettered. It has a one-month notice and is down to 4.75 per cent for balances under £500, 5.25 per cent for under £25,000 and 5.50 per cent over £25,000. Again the Cheltenham & Gloucester Direct30 annually pays 5.50 per cent for up to £10,000, 5.9 per cent for up to £25,000 and 6.3 per cent for over £25,000. The Chelsea has just launched a 20-day postal account that pays 6.05 per cent on £5,000 and the Skipton has weakened the rates on its High Street Notice account to pay

6.35 per cent for over £30,000. **First Option Bonds:** These one-year bonds now give a fixed 6 per cent on £1,000-£25,000 and 6.25 per cent on £25,000 and above. But Chelsea and Bristol & West both offer 6.25 per cent on £5,000.

Ordinary Account: This is also a victim of the rate cuts, indirectly related to June's base rate cut via a fall in gilt yields. It gives 1.5 per cent, for an unusually low minimum balance of £10, and 2.5 per cent if the account is open for a year and a balance of at least £500 is maintained. The Portman's instant-access account however offers 4.5 per cent on a minimum £100 and the Yorkshire Building Society 4.9 per cent on a minimum £1,000.

Pensioners: Guaranteed Income Bonds: The popularity of these has contributed largely to the best-ever results just announced by National Savings for 1995-96. It helped that the Chancellor in his last Budget reduced the qualifying age to 60 and raised the maximum investment to £50,000. The rate remains untouched at 7 per cent gross fixed for five years. Like the other five-year accounts — Capital Bonds and the certificates — the only real competitor from the high street is the Tessa. You can still get Tessa's paying at least 6.5 per cent tax-free. Birmingham Midshires for example has a first Tessa giving a fixed 7.05 per cent.

43rd Issue Certificates and 9th Issue Index-Linked Certificates: If you have used up your Tessa allocation, or other tax allowances, it may be worth putting up to £10,000 into 43rd Issue Certificates (5.35 per cent tax-free for five years) and/or the 9th Issue Index-Linked Certificates (2.5



per cent above inflation, so currently 4.7 per cent tax-free). **Children's Bonds:** This is the area in which NS is traditionally hard to beat. To get the full 6.75 per cent from the bonds you need to lock in for five years and the maximum you can invest is just £1,000. However Abbey National has a Children's Savings Bond at 7 per cent fixed for five years on balances from £1,000, rising to 7.8 per cent for over £25,000. For instant access, the revamped Birmingham Midshires' SmartStart offers 5 per cent from £25.

NS pensions posser by Labour

National Savings could be going into pension provision should the Labour Party get into government. A motion to the party conference next month calls for a National Savings Pension Plan, as a supplement to the basic state pension, to be sold through post offices much along the lines of existing National Savings accounts. The advantages of such a scheme supporters would be

simplicity, low charges and the security of government backing.

Even if the conference motion, backed by CPSA, the National Savings trade union, does not become party policy, the Labour manifesto already promises to introduce a new type of pension scheme.

"While personal plans have worked for many, the high set-up costs have been a problem for low-earners,"

said Bryn Davies of Union Pension Services. "The National Savings Pension Plan would be a low-cost savings vehicle for low-earners."

Details of the proposed plan have yet to be worked out. For example, should National Savings guarantee an income or would pensioners buy an annuity in the normal way? A National Savings spokeswoman said: "We have no plans to introduce a pension scheme."

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Unable to quit while you're ahead

Incentives and tax breaks received ensure that pensions must go the distance, says Sara McConnell

You have a useful sum of money built up in your pension, but you really could do with it now rather than waiting until you retire. Can you get your money back? Or better still, can you sell it to a third party and get more for it than the pension company is prepared to pay?

As we report on page 38, sales of endowment policies are booming, with policyholders getting, on average, 15 per cent more for their policies than the surrender value offered by insurers.

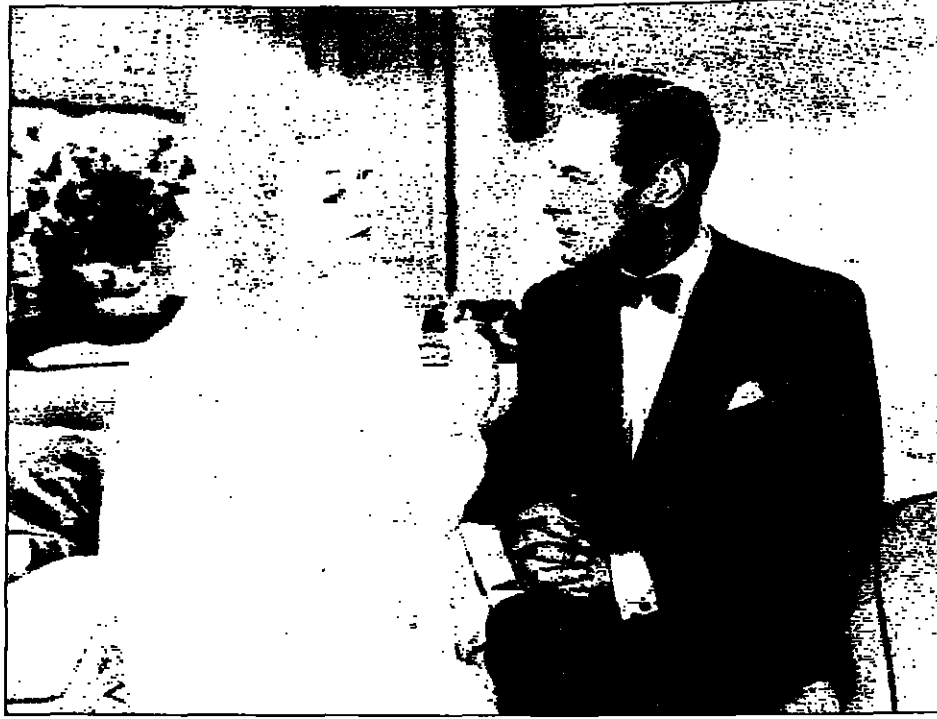
Weekend Money replies: Unfortunately, the short answer to your question is no. You cannot sell pensions in the way you can endowments because pensions benefit from substantial tax breaks, which endowments do not. Pension rules are also specifically designed to make sure you use the money built up to buy an annuity to give you lifetime income. You cannot just take the cash and spend it, either before or after retirement.

Steve Bee, head of pensions at the Prudential, the UK's largest pensions provider, says: "We, as insurers, cannot give people's money back. We're not allowed to. Pensions are long-term investments and they receive very generous tax breaks."



National Insurance fund to provide you with a state earnings related pension (Serps). The Government was keen to cut the cost of Serps and encourage people to take out personal pensions, where their Serps contributions would be invested rather than going straight out as benefits for today's pensioners.

ment tries to cut the cost of the schemes. But as Mr Bee points out, you will already have benefited from the original, more generous regime. Because you are not working at present, no new money is going into your pension. But money you have already received is being invested and, hopefully, growing.



Pensions stick, just as Charles Condomine was stuck with Elvira's ghost in *Blithe Spirit*

The rules on what you can do with your pension money are quite strict because of the state involvement via tax breaks and incentives. You cannot take the money until state retirement age (now 60 for women, but to rise to 65 for women under 40 now).

You have to use all the money from your fund to buy an annuity to give you income, rather than taking a proportion of it as a tax-free lump sum. If you are married and die after you retire, but before your spouse, half your pension

will go to him. If you die before you retire, your spouse will get your pension. If you topped up your Serps contributions with your own money, you have slightly more flexibility (but only on that proportion of your pension

How to tackle county court action

More people than ever are facing the shock of a summons for an unpaid debt. Equifax, the debt agency, says that up to one in six households have county court judgments against them.

Since our article, (Debt worries haunt the middle classes, August 10), readers of *The Times* have asked how they can avoid a CCJ or what to do when a summons arrives.

People are too frightened to open the mail and face their debts. A better course of action is to try to come to some payment agreement before matters reach the stage where a summons is issued.

Sophie Brookes-Hinds, development officer for National Debtline, said when a county court summons is issued, you will end up paying more than you expect. "There is an issuing charge for the summons, so you will obviously keep the debt lower by talking to the creditor before the summons is issued."

By understanding the procedure involved and following some useful guidelines, CCJs can be dealt with more effectively. When a summons is issued it will be accompanied by two reply forms. If the debtor wishes to accept liability for the debt and make an offer of payment, he or she uses the N9 financial statement form to give details of income and expenditure and to show how to work out what he or she can afford to pay. This will be considered by the creditor and, if necessary, by the court.

The judgment will be made and an instalment order should also be made, taking into account information the debtor has provided. There is no hearing, and the only way the debtor can avoid a county court judgment being recorded once a default summons has been issued is as follows:

- If the debtor pays the debt and any court fees and solicitors' fees in full before the judgment is entered.
- If the debtor pays the debt and fees and costs in full within one month of judgment being entered. The Register of County Court Judgments would then remove any records of the judgment and instruct credit reference agencies to do the same.
- The debtor could successfully dispute liability for the debt by showing that it has already been paid, or by proving a counterclaim that exceeds the value of the debt.
- The debtor can dispute the debt if it can be shown the creditor has made some significant error when issuing the summons.

Piped bad news for homeowners

Homeowners in and around London may have been surprised recently to receive a letter from South Staffordshire Water Services, promoting its Home Service Scheme, a specialist insurance cover against the

cost of problems such as leaking pipes and blocked drains. Burst pipes do not usually cause sleepless nights in the middle of August. Soggy carpets and collapsing ceilings are more the stuff of gloomy winter days, cold snaps and sudden thaws.

It may also seem that Staffordshire, as a privatised water company, is being too entrepreneurial in asking for

extra money to deal with problems that you might assume are already its own responsibility.

But it may come as a surprise to homeowners that they are liable for the upkeep not just of pipes within their own home, but also those outside. The underground service pipe that carries water from the mains to your house, as well as the drainage pipe into the mains sewage, is your

responsibility where it is located on your land. Should these pipes become damaged, the repair bill can easily run to several hundred pounds.

While the average home insurance scheme covers internal plumbing emergencies, outside the home it is a different matter. In general household insurance policies will help you to meet the cost of water damage after a flood, rather than the cost of repairing a faulty pipe.

Policies may cover repair costs if the damage is accidental, but few will help if the problem is wear and tear, and your pipe has sprung a leak because it has been there since the Romans installed it.

Blocked drains outside are another source of horror stories. The problem may have been caused by a neighbour, but if on a shared sewage system the blockage ends up in your pipes you will be liable. Again not all household policies will cover the cost of dealing with the problem.

South Staffordshire's Home Service Scheme covers the repair of underground supply pipes, whatever the cause of the damage and up to a maximum cost of £50. This, says Jennifer Synnott, manager of the scheme, is sufficient to meet the majority of repair costs, though the householder may have to pay more where the pipe cannot be repaired but has to be replaced.

The Home Service Scheme, which has been running for two years, has now been extended nationwide and has over 130,000 subscribers. It is also offered by five other water authorities including Anglian, Mid Kent and Folkestone and Dover. The cost for the 24-hour, year-round emergency cover is £45.

Thames Water is planning to launch its own scheme this autumn. Severn Trent, South Staffordshire's larger neighbour, last year introduced a fixed-price repair scheme rather than insurance cover, with external pipes repaired for a set cost of £99.

Water shortages and leaks have also prompted action from Yorkshire Water which serves 4.5 million water users. "We have taken responsibility for customers' service pipes as our response to the water problem. If there is a leak, even if it is on the customer's side, we will repair it," said a spokesman.

Home Service Scheme: 0345 555703

CLARE STEWART

Sensible savers will hold fire on long-term plans

Good sense tells savers to avoid locking themselves into long-term investments while interest rates are so uncertain. But providers are still pushing out the products.

John Gully, of the Portman Building Society, said: "The base rate may fall slightly again by the end of the year, but overall we are at the bottom of the cycle and rates will start to creep up. Unless you go for a Tessa, in the present climate I would restrict investment to one or two-year terms. When they end, hopefully there will be better rates on offer."

Since we seem to be bumping along the bottom of the cycle for a relatively long time, it is tempting to take out a long-term fixed-rate product. But ask yourself whether it's worth locking into a three-year product at 6.5 per cent, when you can get a one-year bond at 6 per cent. Those with enough spare cash can hedge their bets by going for both one-year and five-year products.

"From the providers point of view it makes sense to offer longer fixed rates. Having attracted a tranche of money, two or three years down the road it should be earning the provider more than they are paying out," says Mr Gully.

This week the Market

Harborough Building Society launched a three-year escalator bond. Step Six. The six-monthly fixed rates start at 6 per cent and rise to 8.25 per cent, which over the term work out at an average 6.87 per cent gross a year. Minimum investment is £2,500 and you can withdraw your money subject to 90 days loss of interest.

The Chelsea has also gone for the escalator-style product. Its new five-year guaranteed growth bond starts at 6 per cent and increases to 9 per cent in the fifth year, paying an average 7.2 per cent gross per annum. Again minimum investment is £2,500 and you can get at your money after the first year, but subject to 120 days loss of interest. At the same time, the Chelsea has closed its one-year fixed-rate bond paying 6.25 per cent gross and says it has no immediate plans to replace it.

Nationwide is offering a new three-year fixed-rate bond, which guarantees 7 per cent gross per annum. Minimum investment is £1,000. The society has just closed the previous issue of the bond, which was paying 6.8 per cent gross a year — a good indication of the way the markets think rates are heading.

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*Based on the Financial Times Investment Index, 1991-1995. The chart shows that the UK Recovery Trust has outperformed the average UK equity growth trust over the last 5 years. The chart is based on the Financial Times Investment Index, 1991-1995. The chart shows that the UK Recovery Trust has outperformed the average UK equity growth trust over the last 5 years.

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THE TIMES

Helen Pridham

Pressing changes

Trusting in

A

For your peace of mind

Helen Pridham examines the calls for better provision of income in old age

Pensions are only open to those in employment. Housewives like Greer Garson in *Mrs Miniver* and those without an income of their own are excluded

Pressure grows for a change in the rules

The public's reluctance to put money into pensions is pre-occupying all political parties, although, to date, politicians have shied away from making pension contributions compulsory. As we report on page 35, Labour's latest proposal to encourage the workforce to make provision for its old age is a special National Savings pension, available through post offices.

Meanwhile, there is widespread pressure from all sides of the political divide to simplify the complex pension rules. It is argued that this would encourage people to save for their retirement through easily accessible investments, such as investment and unit trusts which are low cost and flexible. At present, the majority of people without a company pension scheme opt for insurance company pension plans, where the investment returns can be severely dented by high commissions and administrative charges.

There are calls for the Chancellor to simplify the current tax regulations in the November Budget. Currently

similar to a bank or building society account.

The body proposes a fixed pension investment limit per person, unrelated to earnings. At present, you are restricted to investing a certain amount of your income.

If you are a member of a

trusts should be allowed from any source. Mr Warland says: "An employer may make a payment. A husband may make a payment for a wife or vice versa. A parent might pay for their child just starting out at work."

It has been suggested that the annual limit could be the same £6,000 limit that applies to PEP investments. Although it is felt this may seem rather high for most people, it would give scope for building up funds if earlier years' contributions had been missed.

One of the main complaints about existing personal pension plans is their high cost. Often much of the first two years' premiums are eaten up by commission and over the term of a contract fees and charges can reduce the total policy value by more than 20 per cent.

Trusts offer a 4 per cent commission — insurers, 60 per cent of a year's payments

pensions are only open to those in employment. Housewives and others without an income of their own are excluded.

Philip Warland, director general of the Association of Unit Trusts and Investment Funds (AUTIF) calls for the introduction of an easy-to-access "pensions account".

company pension scheme, you can contribute a maximum of 15 per cent of your salary. The amount you can pay into a personal pension depends on your age, ranging upwards from 17.5 per cent. If you are not earning you are not permitted to contribute anything at all.

AUTIF suggests that contribu-

Trusting in flexibility and low costs

As the campaign proceeds to allow investment and unit trusts to become mainstream pension vehicles, unit trust-based pension plans currently available have tended to be overlooked. Two companies, Rothschild and Gartmore, offer the plans. Rothschild launched its plan in August 1988 with a choice of seven of its existing unit trusts and three new funds — managed, gilt and deposit. The usual minimum investment in these trusts is £500 or £50 per month. It has recently expanded its range to include the portfolio fund, a fund of funds which invests in range of unit trusts managed by other companies as well as its own in-house trusts. The minimum investments in this fund are £250 for regular saving and £3,000 in the case of lump sums. The charges are 5 per cent initial and 1 per cent per annum, except on the portfolio fund which has a 1.5 per cent annual charge.

Gartmore's personal pension plan was also launched in November 1988. A special range of 14 "pension strategy" unit trusts was created, in-

cluding three managed funds. For those unsure of the mix of trusts they want, Gartmore also offers a "Life Plan", the first pension scheme where the investment content is progressively rebalanced from a high proportion of equities to a greater exposure to fixed-interest securities as retirement approaches. Minimum investment in the plan is £100 per month, £1,000 per year or £2,000 as a single premium. There is a 6 per cent initial charge and an annual management charge of 0.75 per cent, except on the cash fund where it is 0.5 per cent pa.

The advantages of unit trust pension plans are low costs and flexibility. Neither Rothschild nor Gartmore penalises investors for stopping, restarting or varying contributions and there are no hidden costs for early retirement.

In spite of these attractions, both companies say they have sold relatively few individual plans, though group personal pension business is growing. This appears to be largely due to the low levels of com-

mission paid to financial intermediaries — both companies pay 4 per cent commission on regular and single premiums, while insurers pay about 60 per cent of the first year's investment in a regular premium plan. Nick Hodges, of Gartmore, said: "Intermediaries are more used to the insurers' way of doing things, but we think investors will eventually recognise the advantages of unit trust plans and come our way." Investment

trust pension plans are run by Edinburgh Fund Managers (0800 838993), Flemings (0500 500234), Foreign & Colonial (0171-454 1415) and Ivory & Sime (0131-220 4239). These also have transparent charges, including an initial set-up fee and stamp duty for buying trusts' shares. An investment trust pension plan factsheet will soon be available on 0171-431 5222.

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Caroline Merrell and Anne Ashworth examine the routes open to those cashing in endowment policies

Surrender is the last resort

The scandal of low surrender values continues, in spite of the recent publicity surrounding the offer of paltry amounts to customers who cash in their endowment policies before the maturity date. The penalties for early surrender are still so large that some endowments cashed in their early years will pay back policyholders less than they paid in.

Each year some £2.5 billion worth of these life insurance policies are surrendered for quick cash. One third of endowments never reach their maturity date, being cashed in when couples divorce, or when people lose their jobs.

The Bradford & Bingley Building Society offers a resale service open to all comers. But other lenders have not been so quick to ensure that borrowers disposing of a policy receive the maximum sum. Many insurance companies still do nothing to inform their policyholders that they might find a better price by selling to an investor through an auctioneer, broker or through a market-maker in the second-hand market. This investor will pay the premiums and pick up the lump sum at maturity.

However, there are moves among some companies to inform policyholders that their endowments could fetch a better price. One major life office is said to be thinking of opening a special unit to indicate to policyholders the opportunities in the second-hand market.

The companies operating in the second-hand market calculate that it is possible to get up to 40 per cent more through selling on an endowment rather than surrendering. Usually the uplift is around 15 to 16 per cent. The companies in the second-hand market believe that some life insurance companies have tried to improve their surrender values.

The demand for policies is particularly strong at the moment for a number of reasons. There has been a big increase in those looking to purchase

second-hand endowments, both from investment trusts that invest in second-hand trusts, and from wealthy individuals looking for a long-term investment.

Interest in the market has been fuelled by merger and demutualisation speculation, akin to the rumours that constantly circulate in the building society world. A process of rationalisation in the life insurance market has led to a spate of mergers and takeovers, resulting in millions of pounds of extra bonuses from surplus assets being distributed to policyholders.

Pearl and Prudential are among those planning special bonuses. Pearl's customers will share a £500 million bonus once the company wins final approval for its distribution scheme later this year. The Pru, meanwhile, is in talks with the Department of Trade and Industry.

The demutualisation of some of the larger life companies should also lead to windfalls for policyholders in the form of free shares. Norwich Union appears to be on course to demutualise, while others

Second-hand market is now thriving and may offer the best return for policyholders

such as Scottish Amicable and Friends Provident are considering their future, which could include demutualisation.

Sammy Rubin, managing director of Policy Portfolio, a company specialising in the second-hand market, said: "There has been an increasing interest in our market. Demand from investors has increased, especially as interest rates have come down and investors have been looking for a safe place for their investments."

Natwest Stockbrokers also believes that the second-hand endowment market could be a good place for investment. It says: "Potential investors must compare the acquisition costs plus the sum of future premiums with projected maturity payout. Investments can reap handsome rewards, particularly if the owners of the policy receive an extra bonus resulting, perhaps, from the ongoing wave of restructuring working through the life sector."



Sun Alliance offer easily bettered

ARTHUR WILSON, from Somerset, learnt about the second-hand endowment market from the national press.

Mr Wilson, above, who worked for the Royal Air Force and then Westland, had managed to pay off his mortgage earlier than expected. He thought it was no longer necessary to keep on paying into his 25-year Sun Alliance endowment, which was due

to mature in 2007. The 63-year-old said: "Sun Alliance offered me a surrender value of about £11,800. After contacting three of the second-hand endowment specialists, I was offered between £14,000 and £18,000 for the policy."

After what was effectively an auction, Mr Wilson sold to Policy Portfolio.

TOP TIPS IN THE SELLING STAKES

- Only the with-profits type of endowment is suitable for resale. There is no market for unit-linked policies because the final payout depends on the state of the stock market when the policy matures.
- Policies must have run for at least six years. Policies that have run for half their lifetime are a particular favourite among investors. Low-cost endowments, sold with mortgages, are suitable for resale. But, again, they must have run for at least six years.
- Some companies are more popular with buyers. Norwich Union is much sought after, with investors hoping that they will receive free shares or cash when this mutual makes its stock market debut. The £500 million special bonus makes Pearl another favourite. The Halifax takeover has boosted interest in Clerical Medical policies. The perennial favourite is Standard Life. Equitable Life, however, has such good surrender values that they cannot be bettered in the market. But there are no takers for poor-performing small companies such as Reliance.
- Demand from investment trusts should continue to boost demand for policies. Names of companies operating in the second-hand market are available from the Association of Policy Market Makers (0171-739 3949).

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WEEKEND MONEY LETTERS

How remortgaging can affect entitlement to income support

From Mr Rory Miln
Sir, The article by Sara McConnell and Caroline Merrell (Cut mortgage payments and save up to £4,000, August 17) contains useful advice on remortgaging a family home. Readers should perhaps be aware, however, that a remortgage can substantially alter a person's entitlement to income support in the event, for example, of redundancy.

The basic rule is that a person claiming income support can have his mortgage interest paid by the benefits agency as part of his income support claim. Until October 2, 1995, when a person first claimed income support, no mortgage interest was paid for the first eight weeks of the claim, then 50 per cent of mortgage interest was paid for the next 18 weeks and only after 26 weeks from the start of the claim was mortgage interest paid at 100 per cent.

The present rule is that no mortgage interest at all is paid for the first 40 weeks of the claim, after which it is paid at 100 per cent. There is therefore a considerable difference in the amount of benefit paid, depending on which set of rules applies.

If a person claiming income support for the first time has a mortgage which pre-dates October 2, 1995, the old rules, that is the more generous ones, apply. If the mortgage was given after October 2, 1995, then it is a "new loan" for these purposes and the newer, less generous, rules apply.

Under either set of rules it is possible to calculate the exact amount of interest left unpaid by the benefits agency, which I shall refer to as the "shortfall".

The potential pitfall lies in the treatment by the benefits agency of a case where there has been a remortgage since October 2, 1995. Essentially, a remortgage is a "new loan". The implications of that are quite serious. For example, a couple where the sole wage earner is made redundant might make a claim for income support only to find that

they receive no help whatsoever with their mortgage interest for 40 weeks simply by virtue of the fact that they had recently remortgaged their property.

A couple in that unfortunate situation paying, say, £500 a month on mortgage interest, would suffer a shortfall of £4,615.38. If they had not remortgaged, the shortfall would have been £1,961.46, a difference of £2,653.92.

There is one situation in which a remortgage will not be treated as a "new loan" and that is where the remortgage is with the same lender and there is no additional money advanced. A borrower who had simply switched to a more favourable mortgage deal with the same lender without any additional borrowing would therefore be treated under the old rules. A remortgage with the same lender where there is additional borrowing counts as a "new loan".

The category of person who is particularly vulnerable appears to be the non-earning spouse (let us say the wife) whose husband leaves home and refuses to support her or pay the mortgage. The wife claims income support. She will probably know nothing of the complexities of the income support regulations, but she may have friends whose mortgage interest has been paid as part of an income support claim.

She will assume that her interest will be paid in the same way. Imagine her reaction if she discovers that her husband has remortgaged the property since October 2, 1995 without her being aware of it, and that as a result she is going to suffer a financial penalty possibly running into thousands of pounds. Yours faithfully, RORY MILN, Crosse Crosse Solicitors, 14 Southernhay West, Exeter.

Inflation figures pose a problem for capital gains tax allowances

From Mr T.J. Brack

Sir, May I raise the subject of your tables containing the figures for capital gains tax allowances?

The figures for indexed rises appear to have "gone backwards" in the latest table containing the figures for July 1996 (Weekend Money, August 24).

Compared with the table for capital gains tax allowances for June, every monthly figure has receded by about 0.006: eg January 1987 from 0.530 back to 0.524. How can this be when inflation continues, even at the minuscule rate of 0.2 per cent or so per month?

Investors who were selling assets in July, who would expect the indexed rise figures to increase slightly, or at least

to stay unchanged over the last published figure, may have incurred a small, but albeit unwelcome and annoying, liability to capital gains tax as a result of the July figures.

Should not the Government have published with the latest table an explanation of the new figures?

Moreover, if the reduction results from some redefinition of the figures or correction of old errors, should not taxpayers be allowed to "mark time" on the June figures until the indexed rise catches up again with that month?

Yours faithfully, T.J. BRACK, 11 Clinton Avenue, East Molesey, Surrey.

Why going offshore has more uses than just a holiday in the sun

From Mr M. Fitzpatrick
Sir, Caroline Merrell (Try fishing offshore for better saving deals, August 10) discusses the growing use of offshore, for example, Jersey, accounts by investors; she notes that interest on an offshore account is paid to the investor without deduction of tax.

Ms Merrell rightly makes the point that a United Kingdom taxpayer investing in such an account has to declare the interest to the UK Inland Revenue and pay tax on the interest: the use of such an account does not therefore avoid taxation. However, largely as a result of the revised tax payment dates brought in as a result of the new system of self-assessment, the use of an offshore account can have the effect of deferring the payment of tax as compared with the use of an onshore, ie high street, account. Tax deferred helps maximise interest income, since interest can be earned on the tax money while you are waiting to pay it over to the tax man.

Let us illustrate the point with the hypothetical situation of Helen, who pays UK income tax at the basic rate. As a result of general change in tax legislation effective from April 6, 1996, any interest income she receives will be taxed on her at 20 per cent. Helen is to deposit



an amount in a building society account; she can choose whether to use an onshore or offshore account. We will assume for the sake of argument that:

1) the interest before tax will be £2,000 in either case;

2) the interest will be paid on September 30 each year.

Interest on the onshore account will be paid net of £400

tax, ie tax deducted at 20 per cent, leaving Helen with £1,600 net; while interest on the offshore account will be paid gross with no deduction of tax i.e. she will receive the full £2,000.

Looking at the tax year 1997-98, when the ongoing rules for self-assessment fully apply, the following distinction can be drawn as between using the

onshore or the offshore account.

a) If Helen has invested in the onshore account she will have suffered the £400 UK tax liability on the interest as at September 30, 1997, since the UK tax will have been deducted at source.

b) If Helen has invested in a gross account, she will receive the full £2,000 on September

30, 1997. Under self-assessment she will normally have to pay the relevant 1997-98 tax (£400) in two equal instalments — the first on January 31, 1998 and the second on July 31, 1998. This alone represents a deferral of the tax payable as compared with investing in an onshore account; while in certain circumstances, for example, if the total tax payable

under self-assessment by Helen each year direct to the Revenue is less than £500, she will not have to pay the 1997-98 tax concerned until January 31, 1999 — an even longer deferral.

Is this deferral of tax as a result of using an offshore account, a new phenomenon which has arisen as a result of self assessment? Yes, it is. Under the old pre-assessment system, tax on offshore income received gross was due for payment on January 1 of the tax year concerned, so that the opportunity for deferral was minimal.

Finally, although in our example Helen is a basic rate taxpayer, it should be noted higher rate taxpayers can also benefit from an offshore account in terms of deferring tax. The use of offshore accounts to defer payment of tax is likely to be a phenomenon of the late 1990s after the introduction of self-assessment. While it has been little commented on so far, it will be interesting to see what the Revenue and banks and building societies make of it.

Yours faithfully, MAURICE FITZPATRICK, Senior Tax Consultant, Chantry Vellacott, Chartered Accountants, Russell Square House, 10-12 Russell Square, WC1B.

Consideration pays off when dealing with the taxman

From Mr Peter Thacker

Sir, May I suggest that Miss Brocklebank (Please Mr Taxman, do wake up, Weekend Money Letters, August 17) might show a little more understanding and kindness to the taxman. She may do better to write to her tax inspector, marking the letter for his personal attention, and enquiring how best she might help him to solve the difficulties which he is so obviously experiencing in keeping ahead of the work in his office.

If the problem is the lack of adequate staff and other resources, should she perhaps write directly to the Permanent Under-Secretary? Or would a letter to the Ombudsman help to sort out any aspect of governmental maladministration? Alternatively, might a letter to her MP help to initiate action and solutions in a multiplicity of areas? She would, of course, like to have the tax inspector's advice before taking any such action.

I used this approach some years ago when I had waited several months for a reply to



many letters sent. It produced a solution to the taxman's problems immediately; a phone call came from a member of staff 'who had just taken over my file', and who offered advice as to how I might properly reduce my tax burden, and the next day I

received a letter with a complete and satisfactory answer to my problems. Yours faithfully, PETER THACKER, Greenleigh, Wallford Road, Ross-on-Wye, Herefordshire.

United Friendly policyholders have already had their bonus

From Mr J. McLachlan
Sir, I read with interest your article (Will merger be friendly refuge for savings, August 17) in which you mentioned that United Friendly policyholders will be losers in the forthcoming merger as they "will not receive a special bonus". The press release is somewhat complicated and the fact that Refuge has announced its "special bonus" at the same time as the proposed merger may have made it even more so. The "special bonus" Refuge is referring to is the allocation of its orphan assets.

United Friendly made a similar announcement in February 1995 when it allocated a special reversionary bonus of £74 million for policyholders. As was stated in the press release at the time: "All premium-paying industrial branch and with-profits ordinary branch policyholders will benefit. The amount of the special reversionary bonus will be notified to policyholders with their usual bonus notices". As you will appreciate therefore, United Friendly policyholders have already received their special bonus. Yours faithfully, JOHN McLACHLAN, Group Investment Director, United Friendly Insurance, 42 Southwark Bridge Road, SE1.

Letters to the Weekend Money section are welcomed, but The Times regrets that it cannot give individual replies or advice.

No legal responsibility can be accepted for the advice or statements given in these columns and it must be emphasised that professional advice should always be sought over all investment matters. Letters to Weekend Money can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5082.

Halifax discrimination

From Ms P. Hannam
Sir, Your article (Disabled suffer in societies shareouts, August 24) encapsulates our worries about people with learning difficulties living in homes, hostels and long-stay hospitals.

The staff change frequently and so does the first-named person since the person with learning difficulties cannot operate the account. Therefore, they will lose their shareout. To have any chance of being treated equally, people with learning disabilities will have to rely on the honesty of the person who was the appointee on November 25, 1994, the first qualifying date for the Halifax Building Society conversion. Often this is a member of staff or carer who has a number of residents to deal with.

We are sure this discrimination is not the image that the Halifax wants to show the world as a bank. Yours faithfully, PAM HANNAM, Bristol Mencap, 127A Pembroke Road, Bristol.

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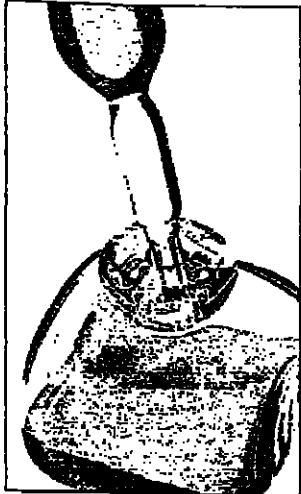
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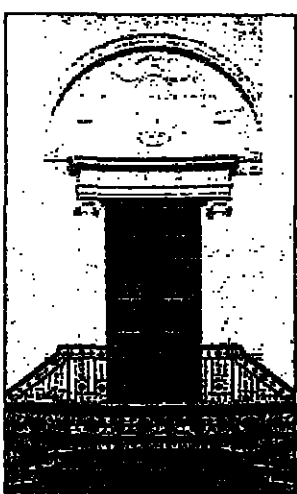


Why a fountain pen is still the stylish choice

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PROPERTY



How the king of the castles has been restored

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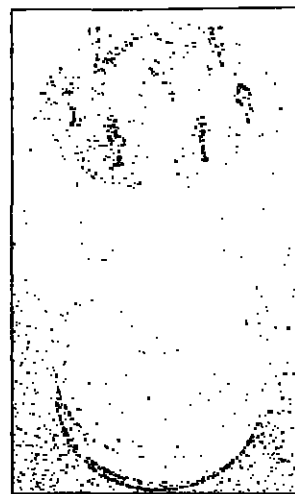


Great British isles, from Guernsey to Scilly

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GARDENING



Create the perfect garden for all seasons

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PLUS: Avoiding injury in the garden, page 4

WEEKEND

THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 31 1996

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE IRISH TO WORK HERE...



Fiona Beckett joins the all-singing, all-dancing training school of the genuine Irish theme pub

Forty-eight hours before opening night, the staff of the new O'Neill's in Nottingham are letting their hair down after their first dry run. As the strains of the *Irish Rover* thump at full volume over the sound system, they hurl themselves into a frantic jig, arms linking, whooping and clapping. A couple climb up on the banquettes, others jump on tables, another grabs a bar tray and starts banging it rhythmically to the beat. At the door curious passers-by crane their heads round, trying to come in but they are told they'll have to wait. It certainly doesn't do any harm building up the anticipation.

O'Neill's is Bass's most successful pub chain or "brand", as the marketing boys like to call it. Nottingham is the 52nd to open in the two years since they launched the chain in Aberdeen. Now they can't convert their existing premises quickly enough. Openings are running at a rate of more than one a month — ten are due in September alone. There are other Irish pubs in Nottingham but the O'Neill's team is confident that by the weekend the punters will be queuing at the door. Last Christmas, the assistant brand manager, Claire Twaites, tells me proudly, the five O'Neill's bars in central London did five times the business they had done the previous year.

The furnishing of the Nottingham branch — the former Café Royal — has cost about £400,000, considerably more than the normal pub refit. Like other O'Neill's it is divided into several bars — the main bar, dramatically swagged and rag-rolled, has a "Celtic" theme. The upstairs is a reconstruction of a draper's shop complete with old sewing patterns. Downstairs at the back there is a "post office", with an original telephone exchange. Everything down to the last piece of the stone and slate floor has been shipped over from Ireland. "May the road rise up to meet you. May the wind always be at your back" reads the sign over the bar. It's kitsch, though not as kitsch as London's Irish superpub Waxy O'Connor's, which has a 250-year-old tree growing in one bar and a pulpit and confessional in another.

The essence of the Irish pub is the craic (pronounced crack), the word for the friendly, sociable atmosphere laced with an edge of wildness that prevails in Irish bars. This is what O'Neill's is trying to inculcate in its staff at Nottingham during the unusually long (for a pub) ten-day training period which I sat in on earlier this week. Out of the 19 staff only two are Irish, the manager, Jack Martin, who used to run a rugby club in Belfast, and one of the girls. "You don't have to be Irish as in Irish accent, you just need to be Irish in attitude," says Jack cryptically. "Most pub managers say, when they interview people, 'I like the look of you, when can you start?' but we want more than that. The staff aren't just interviewed, they're auditioned. They have to do a party piece, tell us a joke, sing a song, get up and dance. Only about a third who apply survive that."

The training builds on these exhibitionist tendencies. As well as being drilled on how to pour the perfect Guinness — and carry a tray one-handed without dropping it — staff are encouraged to work on a couple of song and

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INSIDE STORY

'Like Disneyland, you know it's naff but you can't help enjoying it'

Continued from page 1
dance routines so they can spontaneously burst into action if things get a bit slack. "Be you! You're an asset! You're a star! You were all employed for the fact that you are showpeople. Never miss a chance to get up and have a good time" instructs the training manual.

"We want to make them lose every inhibition they've got so they don't feel they're making prats of themselves when they get up on the tables," says assistant manager Kurt Fernandes.

They were looking pretty uninhibited by the time I got there. In order to improve their tray-handling skills, the trainer, Ian Whyte, was running an *It's a Knockout*-style event which involved three teams racing round the bars, out of the front door, down the pavement and in the back entrance bearing a tray of Guinness and Caffrey's. "Fergus, Fergus, Fergus", "Kerry, Kerry", chanted the rival teams as their runners sped down the stairs, slopping beer wildly in their wake. By the end of the race Fergus's team had lost their beer completely, tripped up by one of their rivals. "They're very competitive now," Ian said with some satisfaction. "You wouldn't have caught them doing that a week ago."

Many of the staff are designated "floorwalkers". Their responsibility is to reinforce the O'Neill's "values" of "warmth, welcome, fun, feeling safe and secure" by taking orders so that customers don't have to hang around at the bar. "Don't let 'Billy' sit there on his own looking like Billy-no-mate, go and chat to him," reads the manual. "When out collecting glasses, talk to customers, have a laugh with them." If conversation flags they can always try an Irish joke or two from the O'Neill's joke manual. "Did you hear about the Irishman who bought a black and white dog? He thought the licence would be cheaper." (And that's one of the better ones.)

Bouncers, or "groeters" as O'Neill's calls them, are told to be friendly, too. "We wanted to get away from the gorilla type at the door. We ask people to leave if we need to. We don't tell them," says Claire Twaltes. Staff are taught to respect the difference between the lunchtime atmosphere, which requires "one-on-one



Staff at the new O'Neill's in Nottingham, primed for the public after ten-days' training — tray-banging and table-dancing have joined the jig as part of the Irish experience

craic", and the unconfined jollity of the evening, which involves live music, getting people onto the floor and onto the tables. (After discovering the rate at which they went through furniture the specification now includes specially strengthened tables.)

Staff occasionally get over-exuberant and want to carry the evening atmosphere into the day. Tray banging — an O'Neill's innovation rather than an Irish pub tradition — is particularly popular among the staff, who are reminded that customers may merely have come in for a quiet drink.

In fact, O'Neill's has its own way of manipulating the craic. The background music is controlled by a state-of-the-art

computer program with a database of 100 CDs — all Irish music or Irish bands — each of whose tracks are categorised according to the number of beats per minute, so the tempo can be increased as the day goes on.

The music is also synchronised with the lighting so that the manager can create bright, noisy areas and quieter, smoochy ones. "The house rule is the music must be Irish at all times," Claire says. "The computer selects tracks randomly though the manager can override the system. If he wants to play the Cranberries for an hour he can but basically the system is de-

signed to stop the staff slipping on Blur or Oasis."

The O'Neill's chain is proving successful beyond Bass's wildest dreams. Although it's pumping unprecedented sums of money into the pubs (£40 million to date — huge for a non-advertised brand) the returns are phenomenal. The main factor is that the punters switch from drinking their normal beer to Guinness or Caffrey's — happily also owned by Bass — both at more than £2 a pint compared to the average £1.60 paid for beer in the UK. "They might come in wanting a Worthington's but once they get to taste Caffrey's or Guinness they don't go back again," Jack says. Staff training also includes a

tutored Irish whiskey tasting to encourage them to "upsell" — suggesting the customer samples a whiskey when he places his order. Higher prices (on average punters spend between £5-7.50 an evening) keep out the rougher element so that even in city centres they tend not to get trouble. The next step is O'Neill's-linked merchandise. "Staff already get offered money for their shirts," says Claire Twaltes.

Irish pubs are of course nothing new but until fairly recently they had been restricted to Irish neighbourhoods, solace for lonely expats. But with Riverdance, and three successive wins in the Eurovision Song Contest, Irish is now huge.

Bass is not the only brewery to have seen the light. All the brewers have got in on the act: Allied Domecq Leisure with its Scruffy Murphy's, Whitbread with J.J. Murphy, Greene King with its O'Grady's chain. There are Irish pubs from Lithuania to Tokyo, from Abu Dhabi to New York, more than 1,000 worldwide. There are 60 in Italy alone.

"It started during the World Cup in 1994. The Irish fans took over the bars and created an Irish pub atmosphere," says Brendan Buckley, the marketing manager of the Irish Pub Co, which exports Irish memorabilia. "Now they can't get enough of them."

Caffrey's, launched two years ago by Bass and now worth £3 million a week, and Guinness, which has been instrumental in setting up many of the overseas Irish pubs, have both been beneficiaries. But the potential is even greater. The average British pub sells 1-2 kegs of Guinness a week (a keg contains 88 pints). An Irish conversion pub sells at least 40. The O'Connor Don, a London pub, got through 80 kegs on St Patrick's Day this year.

Guinness knows a good thing when it sees it. In 1992 it set up the Irish Pub Concept — a back-up service for overseas entrepreneurs who wanted to set up an Irish pub. It includes a pub design service and an agency which recruits Irish staff. Investors decide which of five standard pub designs they want — the Country Cottage, the Traditional Pub-shop, the Victorian Dublin, the Gaelic or the Brewery.

The design service is the

Irish Pub Company, which started with five people four years ago. This year they are building and refitting 70 pubs, employ 80 people with another 100 on contract and have a turnover of £10 million. With uncanny prescience (given the Irish swimmer Michelle Smith's three gold medals) they opened a pub in Atlanta to coincide with the Olympic Games this summer. The response was such that in two weeks' time they will open a full-time American office.

The bar staff seem to be infected by the upbeat mood. Well scrubbed and well spoken, they are like a bunch of bright-eyed and bushy-tailed undergraduates, which many of them are. Nottingham's

Kurt Fernandes used to work part time behind the bar in his local O'Neill's at Huddersfield, where he studied marketing. He dropped the course to work full time and, at 21, is now an assistant manager. The new recruits at Nottingham are an employer's dream. They have assimilated the O'Neill's ethos, talk about the satisfaction of sending customers out with smiles on their faces, of waking up looking forward to going to work. It's unerringly all-American.

Not everyone is quite so enraptured with the "rise and rise of Irishness", as the marketing department of Guinness puts it. Irish friends I've talked to view some of the tackier elements such as etch-

CRAIC & CO

Scruffy Murphy's (owned by Allied Domecq Leisure, which, like all companies listed, is British) opened its first Irish theme pub in 1993 in Edinburgh. A traditional Dublin pub, called Scruffy Murphy's, was dismantled, shipped to Edinburgh and reassembled by Irish builders. There are now 43 others.

Whitbread Inns has opened ten Irish bars in the past 18 months from London to Burnley. Whitbread has two types: the J.J. Murphy, named after the creator of the stout, and O'Hagans, based on the Irish combination of the pub and shop. Whitbread has added fake shopfronts.

The Dublin Pub Company (Greenalls) opened its first branch in Swindon in 1995, called The Tap and Barrel. The company now has nine outlets from Shifly O'Sheas in Leicester to Daisy O'Briens in Bournemouth.

Waxy O'Connor's Irish Pub (14-16 Rupert Street, off Leicester Square, central London) opened in October 1995. Managed by Irish-born Neal Kenney but owned by Glendola Leisure Limited, Waxy's serves a full range of Irish stouts and whiskeys, and potcheen.

O'Grady's (Greene King) opened its first Irish pub at Victoria station, London, in 1995. Three more have followed, one more is planned.

Guinness Irish Pub Concept (GIPC) started in Germany in 1992. The scheme helps publicans and entrepreneurs to set up "authentic" Irish pubs abroad, and there are now more than 1,000 in the world.

ing a shamrock on the head of your Guinness with lofty distaste. "I really wouldn't go within a mile of one of those places," said one. "I mean, do you honestly want someone jumping on your table when you're out for the evening with your mates?"

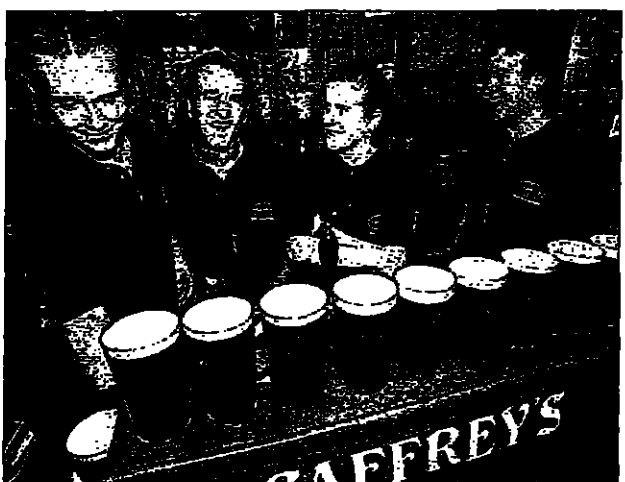
But as far as O'Neill's are concerned, the punters love it. There is a danger in being too purist, though, as they discovered from their experience with the food. They opened with an authentically Irish menu but soon found they had to make compromises. "Not everyone wanted Irish stew, or soda bread sandwiches," says Claire Twaltes. The menu is now an uneasy mix of Irish (Irish stew, beef in stout), cod Irish (Finnegan's Fry, Kiss the Blarney Cake) and standard pub grub (cheeseburgers, chips and dips, ploughman's).

The critics, they say, come round. "We get Irish people coming in to see what it's like and they tell us it's just like home," claims Jack Martin. "We had this guy in our Chesterfield pub from Cork and he asked us to put on *Danny Boy* for him. Everyone started singing along and by the end of the day he was sitting there with tears streaming down his face. He said it was 20 years since he had been at his local in Cork, and it was just like being there."

That's the damn trouble, the music. For all the talk about the craic, the Guinness, the service, the friendliness of the staff, it's those songs, those joyous abandoned jigs that make the Irish pub work all over the world. It's a bit like Disneyland — you know it's naff but you can't help enjoying it.

It may be a marketing man's dream but, as Jonathan Miller of the Guinness Irish Pub Concept points out, unlike sports bars or other theme pubs it's not manufactured out of thin air. "It has integrity as a concept. It's based on real history. You can walk into an Irish pub in Tokyo and feel you're in Ireland." And there's a lot to be said for that.

Cover picture of the staff at O'Neill's in Euston Road in London by MARK HARRISON. Pictures on this page by DOUG MARKE



Beer prices are more than £2 a pint, 40p above average



Staff learn to etch a shamrock on the Guinness head

NOTHING LIKE THE REAL THING

What makes a pub really authentically Irish? Those in the know have no doubts and true aficionados will have none of the revamped pubs. Colin Murray, an architect who has been a regular at The Palace, Fleet Street, Dublin, one of city's oldest pubs, for about 12 years, has definite views. "Age, character and familiarity make an authentic Irish pub. And people the feeling that they are regulars, that being in this particular pub is part of their daily lives and routine," he says. Mr Murray finds the modernisation of Dublin pubs particularly regrettable. "One of our locals had a listed interior, but it has been extended and renovated recently. We can't drink there any more. It's lost its spirit."

The traditional snug, where women used to drink, is what Mr Murray most

values. "It's a place for a great night out where you can meet your friends where you can tap on the small window to get drinks from the bar."

Familiarity is essential. In older pubs barmen might have worked there all their lives: they have a rapport with customers, who often know each other even in the city centres.

Other locals agree. The older pubs have atmosphere and when the theme pubs, which have even penetrated the heart of Dublin, try to imitate it, regulars feel it just doesn't work. New pubs made of new materials cannot replicate the sense of the past in time-worn teak furniture, or even in the peculiar charm of an old, smoke-stained ceiling.

AMANDA LOOSE

IRELAND ABROAD

- Airports at Kiev, Moscow, Orls, Malaga and Dubai boast Irish pubs.
- O'Connell's in Val Thorens in the French Alps serves Guinness 2.5km above sea level.
- The floating Barge Irish Pub will open this year in Pizzegghettone, Italy.
- The volume of Guinness sold per square foot of Irish pub in Tokyo is second only to Ireland.
- Scruffy Murphy's in Birmingham almost wasn't scruffy after all. Labour councillors thought the name was an insult to the Irish.
- The Germans and Italians are Europe's Irish pub connoisseurs. There are 31 Irish pubs in Berlin and 28 in Rome.
- Guinness has a pub-winning scheme, winning the likes of the Rabbit's Bar, Galway, with The Quiet Man in Barcelona.

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'Mrs Beeton was possibly more adept at turning the words than flipping the pancakes. There is hope for all of us'

Foiled by paper-bag cookery

If you could resurrect a figure from the past and spend an evening in their company, who would you choose? A romantic might opt for Lord Byron, a musician for Dame Nellie Melba. I had no choice. I had to spend an evening in the company of Mrs Beeton — my wife had bought the tickets.

Of course, this was no hardship for me; we are a bit less Teflon here and rather more chipped enamel, and prefer the idea of cooking over a spitting coal fire to that of sweltering food under buzzing irradiation. The company of the sympathetic Isabella Beeton could not be bettered as far as I was concerned.

The Strange Life of Mrs Beeton is an extraordinary one-woman show written and recently performed by Alison Neil at Jill Freud's Alderbury Summer Theatre. Neil holds the stage for an hour and a half, being Mrs Beeton, and telling us of her short and tragic life. I had not given Mrs B much thought before. Like Roget and his thesaurus or Webster and his dictionary, her name is so entwined with that for which she is famous that she has ceased to be an individual. The Derby-

shire town of Bakewell has suffered the same fate ever since it became home to that damned pudding.

But a little untangling of the woman from her book is rewarding. We learn that she died at 28 having lost two children under the age of five, and only really took to cookery because her husband published magazines and realised, as husbands do, that a wife is the cheapest way of filling space. She was not, she admits, even a great or practised cook; and possibly more adept at turning the words than flipping the pancakes. There is hope for all of us.

These days, much of her work is dismissed as being the "take 20 eggs" school of cookery — although, as Alison Neil points out, "households were bigger in those days and eggs were smaller" but the occasional gem is worth the wading through of gallons of mock turtle soup. For example, I have always been

intrigued by the idea of "Paper Bag Cookery". She writes of it having been "boomed in the press" and so we must assume it was highly fashionable at that time. It may well have been the slo-cooker, the pesto or the sun-dried tomato of its day. It requires a paper bag greased inside and out, and clips to enclose the food. She warns: "One should not be alarmed if the dish looks uncooked — when served. Such an appearance is inseparable from the method." So what's the point. I wonder? There is no clue in the recipes, a typical one being Bananas with Bacon: "Peel six bananas, cut in half lengthways and place each piece on a slice of streaky bacon. Insert into paper bag and bake in

HOME MADE



Paul Heiney

hot oven for 15 minutes." I shall try it as soon as the weather cools and I can face a hot oven again, always assuming I can find a stout paper bag. When were you last served with one which could last 15 minutes in a hot oven?

But the abiding memory of my night with Mrs Beeton (and such was the power of Alison Neil's performance that I am convinced I now know her personally) was that she wrote not only 1,800 recipes

all the way from Oyster Force-meat to Paradise Pudding, but she left us in no doubt about her firm views on table behaviour.

Table manners, in families rather than at formal dinners, have been crossing my

mind lately. As a family, we are not exactly devoid of decorum; we ask each other politely to pass the salt. We try not to trail our sleeves in someone else's soup as we reach for the bread, and stifle comment on the stylish way or otherwise that each deals with the spitting out of cherry stones.

But there is something lacking at our table: some attitude of mind which displaces the mealtime from its rightful position as a landmark in the day, and relegates it into a deliberate ploy to rob some individual of the first few minutes of *Coronation Street*.

So, inspired by my night out with Mrs Beeton, and to find a solution to this nagging problem while still maintaining a sliver of popularity in the household, I would like to quote from the opening paragraph of her chapter on the subject

of Dinners and Dining, and then pose a question. She writes:

The nation which knows how to dine has learnt the leading lesson of progress. It implies both the will and the skill to reduce to order, and surround with idealisms and graces, the more material conditions of human existence; and wherever that will and that skill exist, life cannot wholly be ignoble.

I rise to my feet in salute as I read those words, having remembered to leave my knife and fork uncrossed on the plate. But the question is this: how do I transform mealtime in this household into events surrounded by a little more idealism and grace, and less by an ignoble bickering over who left the top off the ketchup bottle?

Or should I put my head in a buttered paper bag and ignore it?

Mrs Beeton, the eldest of 21 children and an unpaid nursery maid until her marriage, would have known the answer. Alas she made her excuses and left before I had time to ask. I dare say she had something in the oven.

Couch cooks

SEPTEMBER normally sees the launch of at least a couple of glossy new television cookery series but this autumn food programming seems to have gone into overdrive.

Next Monday Britain's first food channel, the Carlton Food Network, goes on air (for those who have cable) to be followed in a month's time by Granada's Food and Wine Channel on Sky. Not to be outdone, ITV is launching a new cookery quiz, *Quisine* (geddit?), on Monday to rival the BBC's new series of *Ready Steady Cook* and *Can't Cook, Won't Cook*, and its new programme, *Who'll Do the Pudding?* On Thursday on BBC there's another new series, *The Food Chain*, and a return of *True Leith's Tricks of the Trade*.

Although we haven't yet got to the stage of the 24-hour

endless programmes about it. Ah, says Janet Goldsmith, the managing director of the Food Network, it's not that people don't want to cook, it's just that during the week, they haven't time. (Strange, then, that they apparently have no difficulty in rustling up the odd hour or so to watch telly.)

More revealing is that people apparently feel guilty-free about watching a cookery programme in a way they wouldn't if they watched a movie in the middle of the day.

Those of you who tune in may experience a sense of *déjà vu*. Turn on the Food Network at 12.30pm and you'll find well-known television chefs Antony Worrall Thompson and Brian Turner. Switch over to *Ready Steady Cook* at 4.30pm and chances are you'll find...

Antony Worrall Thompson and Brian Turner. And who features on ITV's new *Quisine* programme — apart from, as the publicity blurb puts it, "Renaissance Man" Chris Kelly, also presenter of BBC's *Food and Drink*? Right first time: Antony Worrall Thompson and Brian Turner.

It's not that I have anything against Brian and Antony — both smashing blokes and kind: I'm sure, to their mothers — but there must be a few more candidates for television stardom.

Personally I can't wait until September 17 for the start of good old BBC's latest offering, *Antonio Carluccio's Italian Feast*, a six-part series on northern Italian cookery.

DIGEST



Fiona Beckett

coverage offered by the American Food Network, armchair foodies will now be able to tune into a cookery programme most of the day. Conveniently Granada, which ambitiously includes among its offerings a 52-part series on Greek cuisine, transmits from 9am-midday, at which point you can switch to Carlton and join "fun-loving" Rustie Lee and programmes such as *Who's Cooking Dinner?* (a peek into celebrity kitchens) until 5pm.

I don't know about you but it strikes me as being a funny old world where people spend less and less time preparing food but seem to want to watch



Chefs such as Ainsley Harriott, of *Can't Cook, Won't Cook*, will be busting out from next month as cookery programme rivalry heats up

Daily bread

IF YOU'RE a doer rather than a viewer, you might fancy signing on for one of the burgeoning number of cookery courses springing up.

Top of my list would be one of the breadmaking weekends at the Village Bakery at Melmerby in Cumbria, which offers three specialist two-day courses on Italian breads, flatbreads and sourdough breads, as well as its beginners' course, *Fundamentals of Breadmaking* (call 01768 881515 for details of dates). The price, including one night's B&B and VAT, is £230.

I also like the sound of a half-day class on Thai vegetarian cuisine on September 28, one of a series of imaginative courses run by La Cuisine Imaginaire in St Albans, Hert-

fordshire, (01727 8376643) for £35 including lunch.

If you want to learn about Japanese cooking, film-maker Shirley Booth will tailor-make a class for you and your friends at home. Contact her on 0181-640 5423.

Jam sponge

IT SEEMS to be all the rage among top chefs nowadays to produce their own jams and pickles for diners to take away with them. The latest to join the club is Bruno Loubet of L'Odeon in Regent Street, London, who has launched an exotic range of jams, including peach and basil, and blackberry and liquorice.

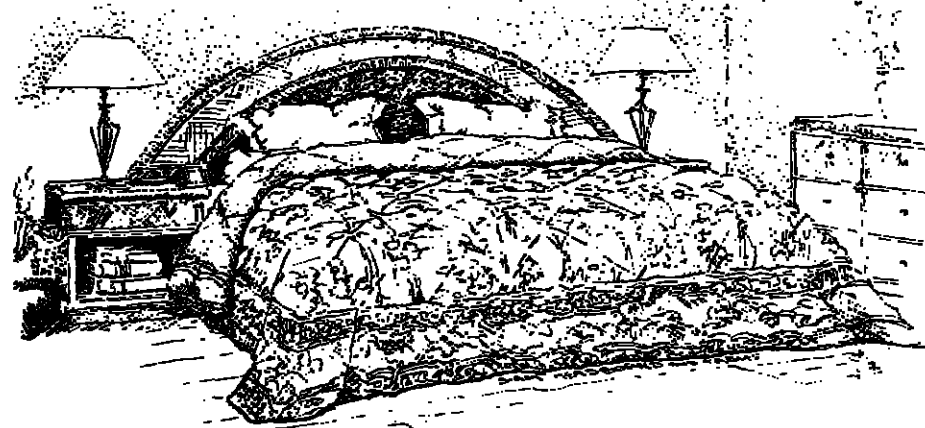
Those of you who blanch at the idea of shelling out £3.50 for a pot of jam can console yourselves with the thought

that you can buy the genuine home-made article from your local WI market for the fraction of the price. Last week, for example, the WI market in Royston, Hertfordshire, was offering 13 different home-made jams for 95p to £1.80 a 454g jar, including gooseberry and elderflower, nectarine and redcurrant and blackberry and apple.

Incidentally you might not be aware that the WI has an Interflora-type service (known in the movement as Interfruitcake) whereby you can arrange to get a parcel of home-made goodies delivered to a friend or relative through their local market. You can get details of local markets from the WI on 01734 394646.

More food and drink in the Magazine

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Marinated aubergine

Caramelised sweetcorn

Couscous salad

Green salad

Gooseberry and marzipan tart

Barbecued need not be cave-man feasts of undercooked meat. This one has lamb because it tastes good rare or well-cooked, fish for non-meat eaters and plenty of vegetables for everyone. Pre-heat oven to 190C/375F/Gas mark 5.

■ **Make marinades**

Into a food processor bowl, put 200ml (4pt) olive oil, the juice of 3 lemons, 2 large handfuls of mint leaves, 2 red chillies (with seeds if you like it hot), 2 cloves of garlic and 1tsp salt. Whizz to get an amalgamated dressing. Pour three-quarters of the dressing over 12 lamb chops and six 170g (6oz) tuna steaks. Marinate for at least 30 minutes (put in the fridge if you are leaving it for longer), turning at



least once. Mix 2tsp vinegar with 1tsp caster sugar. Add 1½tbs Dijon mustard and 150ml (4pt) olive oil. Mix thoroughly with a fork. Cut 3 aubergines lengthways into 1cm thick strips. Turn the aubergine strips in three-quarters of the mustard vinaigrette and leave to marinate for at least 30 minutes.

■ Make couscous salad

Soak 250g (9oz) couscous for ten minutes in double its volume of warm water. Meanwhile, put ½ cucumber, a de-seeded yellow pepper and a red onion in a food processor bowl. Whizz into small pieces. Briefly drain the couscous and put on a tray in the oven for ten minutes. Mix in a serving bowl with the chopped vegetables and the rest of the lemon and mint dressing. Season with more salt and lemon juice if necessary.

■ Make tart

Put 225g (8oz) ready-rolled shortcrust pastry in a 24cm-diameter tart tin. Lightly flour the rolling pin and work surface and roll out 250g (9oz) golden marzipan into a thin circle to fit the bottom of the tart tin. Cover with 450g (1lb) gooseberries. Put in the oven for 25-30 minutes, until the gooseberries are cooked and the pastry is crisp and light brown at the edge.

■ Barbecue meat, fish and vegetables

Barbecue 6 sweetcorn cobs until they are parched with brown and have a chewy-toffee-sweetness. Barbecue the aubergine slices, laying them across the bars of the grill so they do not slip into the fire. Put the sweetcorn and the aubergines on a serving dish and sprinkle with salt. Barbecue the meat and fish, brushing them with the marinade as they cook. Put on a serving dish. Pour over a little of the marinade.

■ Serve barbecue food

Toss the washed leaves of 2 round green lettuces with the rest of the mustard vinaigrette. Put the green and couscous salads, the meat and fish and the barbecued vegetables on the table.

■ Serve tart

The tart is quite rich but you could serve it with cream if you are feeling greedy.

HATTIE ELLIS

Shopping list

Fruit and vegetables: 3-4 lemons, 2 large handfuls mint, 2 red chillies, 2 cloves garlic, 3 aubergines, ½ cucumber, 1 yellow pepper, 1 red onion, 450g (1lb) gooseberries, 6 sweetcorn cobs, 2 round green lettuces.

Meat and fish: 12 lamb chops, six 170g (6oz) tuna steaks.

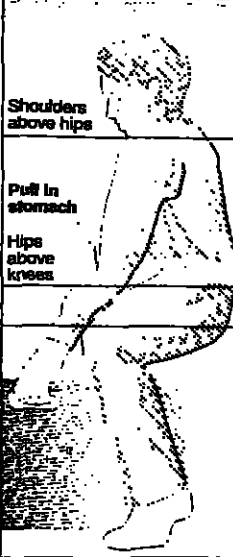
Dairy: 225g (8oz) ready-rolled shortcrust pastry, 150ml (4pt) single cream (optional).

Storecupboard: 425ml (4pt) olive oil, 2tsp wine vinegar, 1tsp caster sugar, 1½tbs Dijon mustard, 250g (9oz) couscous, 250g (9oz) golden marzipan.

Drink: Beer, wine and iced water.

Trouble with trowels, loose ladders, wheelbarrows ... your home patch is full of danger

LIFTING TECHNIQUE



PAIN-FREE GARDENING

JANE GASKELL, the development director at the London YMCA, offers this rule: set yourself a reasonable programme of different tasks — and stick to it. Strains and pains, says Ms Gaskell, often result from trying to do too much during a spell of pleasant weather — and concentrating on one task only.

Ms Gaskell, whose organisation has produced the *Y Plan* and *Fitness Club* videos, says: "You should do a little bit of everything every day and plan your gardening programme in a graduated fashion. 'DO NOT go straight into heavy digging,' she says. 'Start by moving the lawn as a warm-up exercise to get the circulation going. Do some digging in the middle of the programme, and finish off with something light, such as weeding. If you get to the end before the day is over, stop, pick up a newspaper or admire your progress.

Lifting technique is the other key to avoiding pains and strains. "You should pull your stomach in before you lift, because that acts as a splint to your back," Ms Gaskell says.

"As you lift, you should ensure that your shoulders are higher than your hips, and your hips are higher than your knees, so that you are not putting the strain on your back."

She also recommends that when weeding you use a kneeling pad or even wearing skateboarders' kneepads.



Who's holding the ladder steady? Expert medical advice is that nobody over 65 should even think of climbing up one — but still we gardeners of all ages do it

Take care — it's a jungle out there

Whether your garden is a tufted mess of overgrowth, or laid out like a landscaper's dream, be warned, trouble is just round the corner.

Nature is lurking in the guise of twig and wheelbarrow to snare unwary gardeners and deliver them into the arms of hospital casualty departments, which are busy at this

time of year with Britain's annual influx of summertime gardening victims.

An estimated 435,000 people need hospital treatment for garden-related accidents every year in this country — a rate higher than that for heart attacks nationwide. Such a statistic cannot be let alone for long by those who consider it their mission to save us from ourselves, and so it is that St John Ambulance has begun a

campaign urging caution upon anyone venturing beyond their patio doors.

All of the classic dangers are outlined in the brigade's free first-aid handbook for gardeners: poisonous plants, slippery paths, doggy electrical equipment, sharp tools, unguarded ponds, heat exhaustion...

Also to the rescue of the reckless and accident-prone have come the garden-tool manufacturers, who, according to the Consumers' Association, have made great advances in protecting the reckless and the accident-prone: modern trimmers and mowers are now, says the association, sensible-person-safe, if not idiot-proof — they switch off when not operated with both hands and are festooned with blade guards.

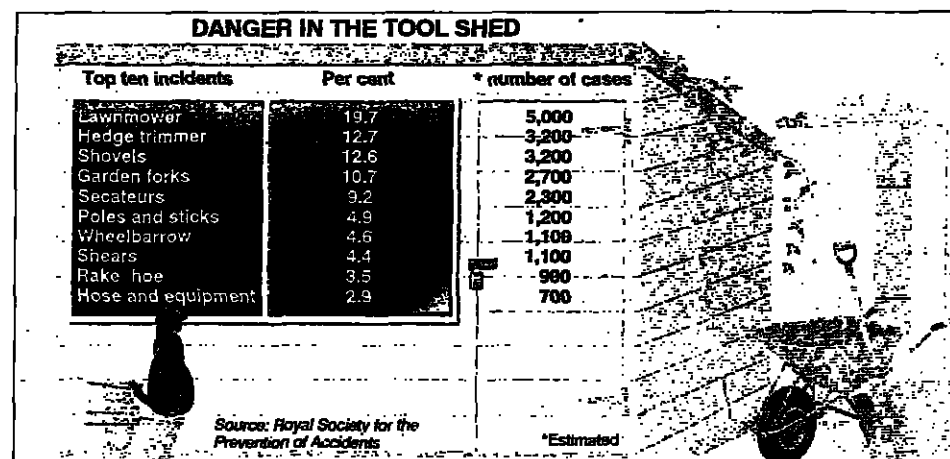
But despite all this coddling, a legion of other, less-predictable, dangers lurk, aided and abetted by the personality of the British enthusiast, who believes he or she can turn into supergardener the moment the sun comes out.

Dr Mike McColl, accident

and emergency consultant at the Royal Preston Hospital, says that older people are particularly prone to supergardener syndrome. "Too many of them suffer bad falls from ladders and step ladders," he says. "No one over 65 should even think of climbing up one. I know of one woman who solved the problem by giving her husband's ladders away."

Strains and pains are a particular threat to the over-enthusiastic. Dr Rupert Evans, accident and emergency consultant at Cardiff Royal Infirmary, sees significant numbers of people after summer weekends complaining of inflamed joints and bad backs caused by over-vigorous digging.

Nevertheless, we dash about the garden, lifting, climbing, pushing, shovelling, all without a thought for warming up or watching out. Hence the annual roll of more than 7,000 people injured by garden tools, and more than 2,000 injured by lifting or dropping



flower pots, more than 1,000 people hurt hefting wheelbarrows. Yes, wheelbarrows. The humble implement is a fine example of how the intelligent gardener's other nemesis — the freak accident — can claim even the most cautious. Paranoiac libertarians will be gratified that the Government actually monitors wheelbarrow-related mishaps: the official records tell a sorry tale of people dropping them on their feet, catching hands in the wheels, walking into them and crashing through greenhouses.

And if wheelbarrows were not innocuous enough, consider the trowel. About 400 people fall victim every year, and Government gardening statistics record the victim who "ducked under a wire fence to return trowel to neighbours, tripped and hurt wrist", the one who "trod on trowel, caus-

ing fall into rose bush" and the hapless troweller who was "hending down when next door's cat jumped off the fence on to her head, causing cuts".

Even for the careful gardener, one further danger awaits — other people — as government records show: "Patient had argument in garden with girlfriend, who hit him over the head with bamboo cane."

JOHN NASH

● The St John Ambulance Gardeners' Handbook can be obtained by sending an SAE with two first-class stamps to First Aid in the Garden Campaign, Gardeners' Handbook Offer, St John Ambulance, 1 Grosvenor Crescent, London SW1X 7EF.

● A Garden Safety fact sheet is available for bulk orders from the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents, Edgaston Park, 353 Bristol Road, Birmingham B5 7ST (0121-348 2000).

WEEKEND TIPS

- Buy spring tulip bulbs; keep them in a cool place and plant before December.
- Evergreen trees and shrubs can be moved in the coming month. Soak the roots first, in day or two in advance, and move on a still, dull day. Plant evergreen hedges in well-prepared trenches.
- Prune out the flowered stems of loganberries and tie the new ones in place for next year. Space evenly to ensure maximum sun.
- Take cuttings of plants in terrace pots too large to bring in doors for next season, for example, argyranthemum and salvia.

S. A.

THE TIMES Indoor bulb offer

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GARDEN ANSWERS



STEPHEN ANDERTON replies to readers' letters

Q What is the white substance on my skimmia stems, which also appears on my neighbour's sycamore, and can it be treated? — Mrs L. Brown, Swinton, Manchester.

A Your skimmia is suffering from scale insects, which can attack even such leathery evergreens as this. Under the white woolly wax is the tiny sap-sucking scale, and as it secretes honeydew, black sooty moulds follow. Try soaking the root system with the systemic insecticide dimethoate. Spraying with malathion on to the scales is ineffective because the wax repels the chemical. Spraying needs to be done in late spring and early summer when the eggs hatch and the insects crawl off and settle down to scale, but before they develop their wax coating.

Q I have had a Japanese maple, *Acer japonicum* "Aureum" for nine years, for seven of which the leaves have turned brown at the edges in early summer and shrivelled. How can I prevent this? It is now 4ft high. Is it a dwarf, as I understood, or just slow-growing? Should I move it to a position with more room to develop? —

Mrs G. Stephen, Claygate, Surrey.

A What a glamorous tree this is: golden-yellow, fan-shaped leaves and a fine, balanced branch structure. To do well it needs dappled shade and soil that is never too dry. Wind and hot sun will shrivel the leaves. Too much shade makes the leaves lime green rather than yellow. It is not really a dwarf tree. It can make 25ft over the decades, and in maturity is a fine sight. So if you can offer suitable conditions, by all means give it more space. Move it carefully in March with a big rootball.

Q I want to move the *Leycesteria formosa* I planted three years ago and which is now about 5ft tall. When is the best time? — Mrs J.A. James, Baildon, West Yorkshire.

A Any time between November and March will do. *Leycesteria* makes stout hollow stems from ground level, sea green for the first year or two, each stem lasting

only a few years. If it is too gangly and unmanageable, you could cut down your plant entirely to move it. It will spring back to between 3ft and 5ft next year. Some people like to cut the plant down every year in spring, like a red-stemmed dogwood, for the quality of the stems, and so the plant carries less dead wood. Alternatively, you could save some berries and grow some new plants. You will probably find seedlings in the garden anyway now that you have the plant established.

Q Last year I bought an *American ceanothus* (pale-blue flowers and mud-green leaves) and put it in a

40cm pot. This year it has reached 150cm. I'm told I must take it out of the pot in autumn and trim its roots. If so, how do I do it? — Mrs S.E. Fernandes, Bristol.

A Is this *Ceanothus americanus*, I wonder? It is not a common species in the nursery trade. The flowers should be virtually white if it is, and the plant only a metre high. Its common American name is New Jersey Tea because the leaves were used as a tea substitute during the Civil War. Which ever *ceanothus* you have (they are all from America, mostly California), it will not relish root disturbance. Nurseries, Wimbobsham, Norfolk PE14 8QB (01366 388753).

● Readers with gardening problems can write to: Garden Answers, Weekend, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN. We regret that few personal answers can be given and that it may not be possible to deal with every request. Advice is offered without legal responsibility. The Times also regrets that enclosures accompanying letters cannot be returned.

haps you could take your pot into a cold greenhouse?

Q I am building a 6ft-tall south-facing stone wall. Could I grow a cherry tree against it and would it fruit satisfactorily? Could you suggest a suitable variety? — J.R. Haythornthwaite, Lancaster.

A Cherries, both sweet and acid (cooking) kinds, are vigorous trees, and a 6ft wall is small for them. However, you should succeed on a less vigorous rootstock such as Colt, with careful attention to pruning. "Morello" is the classic, heavy cropping self-fertile acid cherry. Of sweet cherries, try the self-fertile "Sunburst", a black-fruited variety. Both are available from Chris Bowers & Sons, Whittington Trees Nurseries, Wimbobsham, Norfolk PE14 8QB (01366 388753).

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The making of a country dream

Inspired by the garden designer Mary Keen's new book, Stephen Anderton visits her home in Gloucestershire to see how she creates an apparently unsophisticated cottage garden

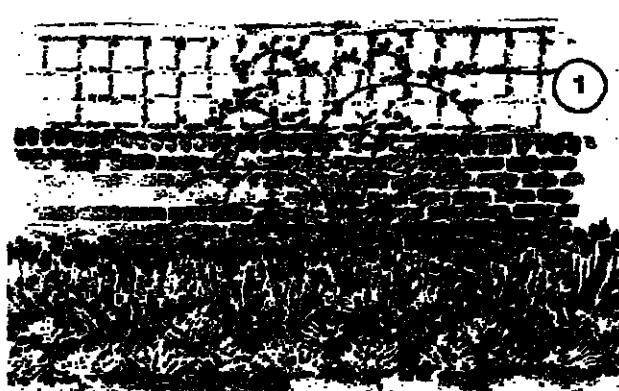
No matter how much you read about a well-known garden and look at the pictures, when you see it for the first time it is always different. After reading a new book, *Creating a Garden*, by the garden designer Mary Keen, I decided to visit and talk to her about it.

Never have I found a garden so much like its portrait, in its sense of space, atmosphere, and style of development.

Mrs Keen and her husband, Charles, have lived in Gloucestershire for only a few years but a great deal has been achieved in the garden. The house, one of those old rectories about which garden-makers dream, sits tall and plain on the side of a narrow valley, backed by a churchyard and overlooking a cluster of farm buildings and cottages. Around it lies a couple of acres of garden, sometimes sloping, sometimes terraced, but never divorced from the watchful presence of the house. Who could ask for more?

Well, lots of people. Say Cotswolds and I see smartness, emerald lawns, conical lighting, fast cars and swag upon swag of climbing roses. Mrs Keen's garden does much better than all that. "I like to think you can't tell where I've worked on it," she tells me of her garden designs. Here, trees have been removed, landform changed with a JCB, walls built and hedges planted. But it all looks as if it has been there for ever. It is comfortable, and not in the least showy. "Some gardens are purely for looking at, but the best ones are for being in," she says.

Mrs Keen came to garden design later in life, having brought up a large family of



The three seasons of a narrow bed showing unity.
1 Spring: a rose with a solanum growing through it, pink tulips (Couleur Cardinal and Spring Green) and daffodils.
2 Early summer: a cloud of blue flax, *Linum narbonense*, takes over with the rose 'New Dawn'.
3 Late summer: crimson *Clematis* 'Gravetye Beauty' adds colour

poets and actors. She now leads a busy life advising on gardens for wealthy, mostly private clients. Her most public work has been the gardening around the new opera house at Glyndebourne.

There is something remarkably calm about her. At home she dresses in comfortable T-shirts for pottering around the garden, and has one of those low, effortlessly modulated voices rarely given to sparks. When I suggest a wooden balustrade, as we chew the fat over one particular part of the garden, she comes back instantly with a little laugh: "But I couldn't do that. This is Cotswold vernacular here."

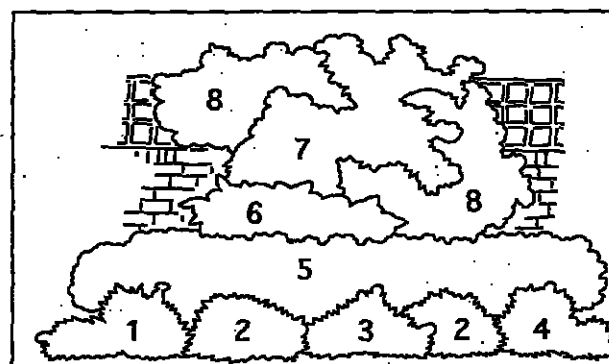
We had been looking at the lower garden, a sunken section of garden about 15 yards square, which sits just below the side of the house. It is one of those gardens made difficult in that it is seen from many different angles — from a terraced path above, from windows above and from below as you approach from the

lower garden. Such gardens have to satisfy from any one of a dozen angles.

The design principle is a square divided by diagonal paths into four inward-facing triangles, with an old copper sitting at the centre where the paths cross.

The effect is not unlike a diagonal version of the Cottage Garden at Sissinghurst in Kent. But here the similarity stops. There is no commanding formality of hedge and brick path balanced by blocks of hot, visceral colours. The planting style is altogether different.

Profusion is the key. Yes, there are large blocks of colour, from white clematis and magenta *Geranium psilostemon*. But much of the planting is more mixed, using small groups of even individual plants blended closely together. There are garras, hollyhocks, dark-leaved *Artemisia lactiflora* Guizhou, some roses, and the great



PLANT PLAN

- 1 *Dianthus* 'Gran's Favourite'
- 2 *Dianthus* 'Hector White'
- 3 *Dianthus* 'Laced Monarch'
- 4 *Dianthus* 'Becky Robinson'
- 5 *Linum narbonense*
- 6 *Clematis* 'Gravetye Beauty'
- 7 *Rosa* 'New Dawn'
- 8 *Solanum elaeagnifolium* 'Glasnevin'

grey Scotch thistle, *Onopordium acanthium*. Some plants repeat a good deal, to give unity, such as magenta *Lycnis coronaria* and purple *Verbena bonariensis*. The copper is almost invisible under its rolling cargo of heliotrope, franseria, petunias, argyranthemum and trailing geraniums. This is lyric planting.

To some this style of planting would be too fussy, not full enough of "moments" of clever plant association. The point is

that the picture is overall. And Mrs Keen likes to demonstrate the sense of gardening-at-work; that things are developing faster and more delicately than the group-to-group arrangements of institutional best borders. "Serviceable perma-colour," she calls it: Cottage gardening without the self-conscious chic. Spikes of the upright box 'Greenpeace' around the copper are the only nod to formal planting.

You might not want this sort

of planting everywhere. But Mrs Keen has created a series of complementary areas throughout her garden, the simplicity of some cleaning the palette for a new flavour in others. So a plain lawn with gravel terrace fronts the house, and the view sails out into open farmland. To the rear is a small kitchen garden (no potato, this) with apple trees and business-like rows of vegetables. To one side of the house is a raised grass terrace

containing nothing but grass and clipped yews. Its inspiration forms one of the best chapters of the book, telling how initial plans for flowery complication gave way gradually to simplicity. A chapter is devoted to each part of the garden, illustrated by her sources of inspiration in paintings, plants and other gardens. If you want to learn from the thinking which lies behind a new garden, read and enjoy Mary Keen's book.

■ *Creating a Garden* by Mary Keen, with photographs by Andrew Lawson, is published by Conran Octopus at £25. A discount of 20 per cent is offered to Times readers. To take up this offer call Conran Octopus Direct on 01753 371899 with your credit card details. Or send a cheque, payable to Reed Book Services, to: CO Direct, 43 Stapledon Road, Orton Southgate, Peterborough PE2 6BR. Please quote ref H177. PEP is free.

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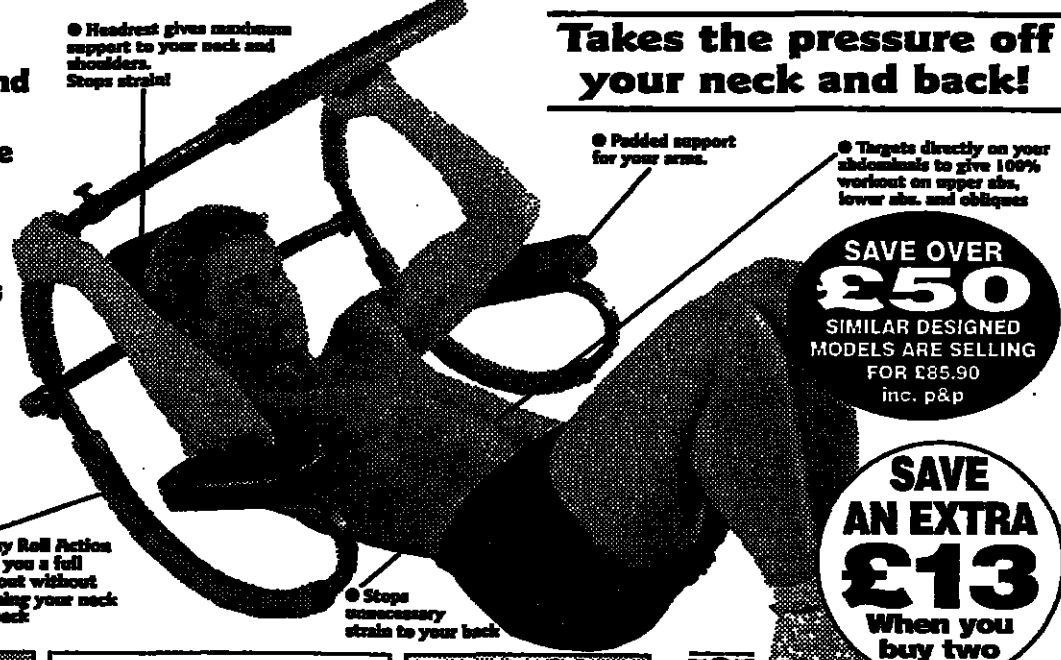
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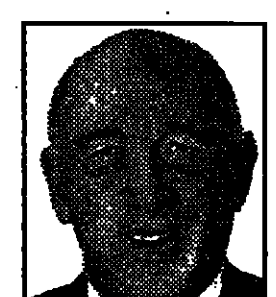
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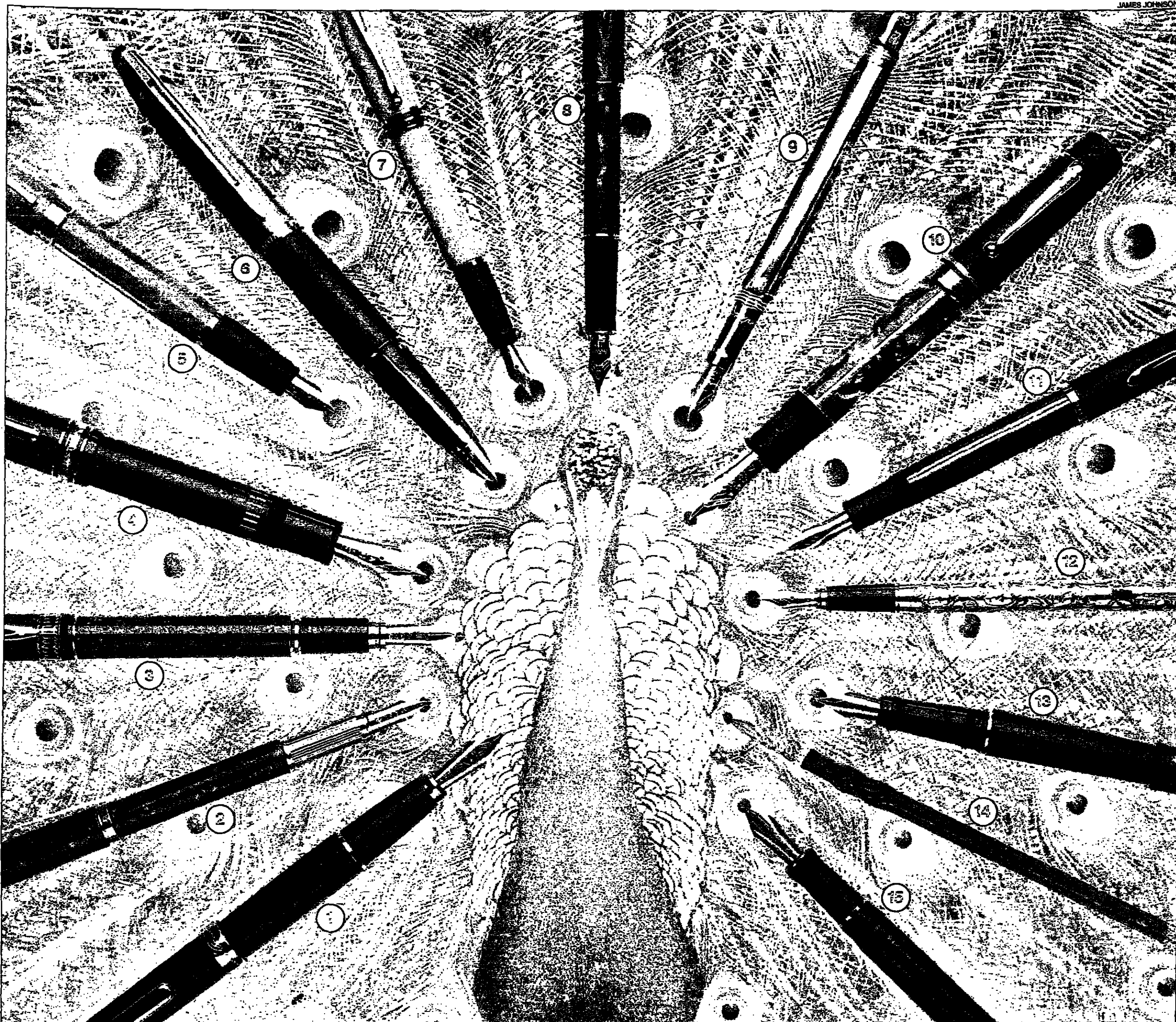
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SHOPPING

7

The fountain pen has made a strong comeback as an elegant writing instrument and a design classic



The stylish way to write, from highly expensive to moderately priced (clockwise from bottom left): 1 Diplomat Classic, £60. 2 Waterman Lady Agathe, £160. 3 Waterman Man 100 Patricia, £275.

4 Montblanc Meisterstück 149, £280. 5 Sheaffer School Pen, £3.99. 6 Waterman Edson Sapphire, £490. 7 Aurora Ipsilon, £45. 8 Parker Sonnet, £85. 9 Montegrappa Reminiscence, £235. 10 Limited

Edition Montblanc Alexandre Dumas, £490. 11 Pelican 400, £115. 12 Yard-O-Led Viceroy Victorian, £300. 13 Waterman Reflex, £9.99. 14 Smythson Glass £27.50. 15 The Parker Duofold International pen, £185.

A pen for your thoughts



Fancy a dip? Lamy ink bottle, left, price £3.90; Penman, £4.15; Pelican, £4.95; Omas, £7; Parker Quink, £2.60; Montegrappa, £4.75; Montblanc, £4.35; Smythson, £8.50

As personal computers grow in popularity, you might expect the fortunes of the humble pen to be in decline. However, the appeal of the pen has never been stronger. After taking a dive in the 1970s when they came up against stiff competition from ballpoint pens, rollerballs and felt pens, the fortunes of the fountain pen became linked with the image-conscious yuppie generation and this stimulated a growth in sales. Parker's turnover rose by 50 per cent in this period and Waterman now has annual sales of about £59 million worldwide.

We may want our documents cut, pasted and lasered to perfection by computers but traditionalists also yearn to mark their independence in ink.

"Fountain pens are the best thing to write with because they slow you down," says Kathleen Flynn, the brand manager for Waterman, the oldest fountain-pen manufacturer in the world. "We write at the same speed as we think. This helps us to form our letters properly and as a result our writing is usually much more legible."

There are pens to suit every pocket. From the plastic-bodied, steel-nibbed Sheaffer School Pen, which costs £3.99 at branches of the Pen Shop, to the diamond-encrusted, 22-carat gold Montblanc Meisterstück Solitaire Royal at an extraordinary £82,000. It takes Montblanc's craftspeople six months to set the 4,810 diamonds in the pen, so the company makes only one or two of these pens a year. Modestly priced, by comparison, is the Man 100 from Waterman (£5.85), made of 18-carat gold and hallmarked. This is the sort of pen that many collectors buy as an investment and, consequently, they are rarely used.

Before you rush out to buy a fountain pen for speculative reasons, remember, of course, that all investments have a habit of going down as well as up.

Pens in the remainder of the Man 100 range are more suited to everyday use and everyone's pocket, costing between £275 and £425. Choosing a pen is something that

should never be hurried. Spend time trying out the various makes and models on offer. What you need to consider is the weight and width of the pen. The nib, contrary to popular belief, is not the most important consideration. A nib, if unsuitable can be changed. The Pen Shop offers a 28-day nib-exchange scheme, free of charge, so

long as the nib is in good condition. But when choosing a nib, bear in mind that gold is a flexible material. A gold nib will quickly become attuned to your hand, which is why it is said you should never allow another person to use your fountain pen. Someone with a heavy hand can alter a nib merely by writing a short letter. The upside of the gold

nib is that light damage to it can be repaired.

The bulbous Montblanc pens with their distinctive white "snow-capped" tops have become status symbols and the Meisterstück 149 (£280 in presentation case with ink) has become a design classic, showcased in the New York Museum of Modern Art.

Another classic style is the Parker Duofold. First produced in the 1920s, the Duofold was revived last year with a range of pens based on the original design. According to Alexander Crum Ewing, the pen expert who heads the Collectors Department at Bonhams, and author of *The Parker Heritage*, the company is just following the

maxim of its founder, George S. Parker, "Make something better and people will buy it". The Presidential Duofold is made of 18-carat gold and costs £5,700. Down the range is the Marbled Duofold, available in maroon, green or blue, at £185.

Next month Waterman is releasing L'Etalon (£150), a pen lacquered

in various colours and trimmed in gold with an 18-carat gold nib. Its simple design exudes authority and power in an understated manner.

But for a look that suggests the aristocracy of fountain pens, it is hard to beat the range of fountain pens from Yard-O-Led. With its Victorian and Regency designs, the Yard-O-Led range smacks of the British Empire, which is appropriate because these are British-made pens. All are hand-crafted in gold or silver and radiate splendour.

Tim Tufnell of Yard-O-Led says: "They have traditionally been bought by professional people such as lawyers, doctors, as well as by collectors — but nowadays young people are also purchasing them."

Two models are on offer: the Viceroy (solid silver, £205; gold-plated sterling silver, £280) and the Viceroy Victorian (solid silver, £300; gold-plated sterling silver, £390). All are individually numbered and hallmarked.

But if your budget does not stretch to three figures, there are plenty of pens costing less than £100. The Preface from Waterman is a solid, lacquered, no-nonsense fountain pen, which starts at £75. Also from Waterman is the Lauriat, a modern design with ridged nib unit to help your grip (£47). The Sonnet range from Parker starts at £35 for a sleek, stainless-steel pen. The Parker Frontier range has been designed for the heavy user. Starting at £8.99, the top model in this range will cost £17.99.

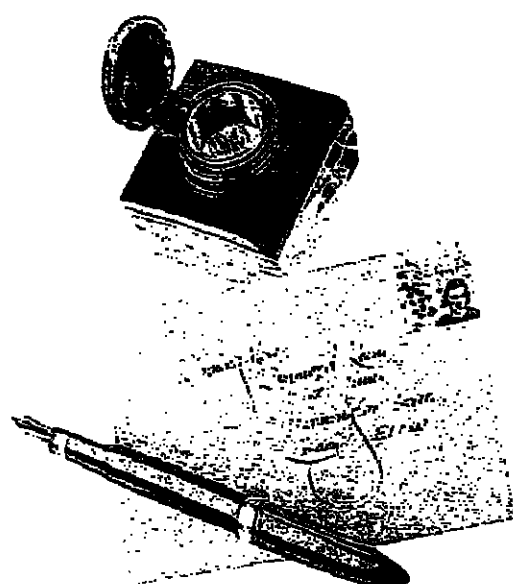
But when it comes to fountain pens at the budget end of the market, the name that springs to mind with many pen users is the Lamy Safari (£11.75). This German-made pen has a specially designed nib unit to ensure a correct grip.

Another, more expensive pen that concentrates on grip is the Omas 360 (£250), made by the oldest pen-manufacturing company in Italy. The instrument's triangular nib unit has been designed to allow the writer to grip the pen without tensing the muscles in the hand. At last, a cure for writer's cramp.

BRENDAN MARTIN

STOCKISTS

- The Pen Shop: 14 branches; details 0171-734 4088.
- Montblanc Boutique, 61-63 Burlington Arcade. Priced to sell all Montblanc products and department stores also feature a selected range; details 0181-232 3000.
- Yard-O-Led pens are available from specialist pen shops such as the Pen Shop, PenCraft and Penfriend as well as Asprey's, Harrods and Fortnum & Mason.
- The Pen Shop and WH Smith sell the Lamy Safari.
- The Omas 360 (right) from branches of The Pen Shop.
- Parker and Waterman can be found in many stationers, as well as specialist pen shops and Harrods.
- Smythson: for nearest stockist phone 0171-629 5588; mail order 0800 211311.



Think ink: the Montblanc Meisterstück ink well, £289, with Omas 360 pen, £250

PEN-FRIENDLY ADVICE

TO KEEP a fountain pen in good working order, follow this advice:

■ Wash the nib section of the pen at least twice a year.

■ If the pen develops a leak, wash it thoroughly. Remove the cartridge and clean each part in cold running water and clean the interior of the cap with absorbent paper.

■ Never use hot water or solvents because they can damage your pen — especially on lacquer finishes.

■ It is always best to use the manufacturer's or recommended brand of ink. All inks are not the same; one brand may damage another brand of pen.

■ Replacing the cap roughly can cause a spray of minute droplets of ink to lodge in the interior of cap. Such droplets will build up over time and start to leak.

■ Always carry your pen in your pocket or handbag in a vertical position with the nib pointing upward to avoid accidental leaks.

■ Always replace the pen cap after use to prevent ink evaporation and clogging, which can lead to a partial or even total interruption of ink flow.

■ Changes in pressure or heat can cause leaks. Waterman says that the atmospheric changes encountered in air travel can, in extreme cases, cause pens to leak. The pen manufacturer says that in such circumstances a half-full ink cartridge is more likely to leak than a full one.

■ Make sure you are using the correct nib for your writing style. Not to do so can give your handwriting an irregular look — some lines may appear too thick, others too thin.

RISEING
DAMP
WASH IT WITH WATER

WALLGUARD

Don't forget the dog's gums, mum

Up to three quarters of cats and dogs suffer from dental disease, yet regular treatment could make them nicer to know and prolong their lives

There can be few sadder sights than a much-loved family pet shunned by those it has loved for many years. But it can happen when our pets grow older and their breath begins to smell. The good news is that the most basic method of oral hygiene, brushing the teeth, can solve the problem.

Up to 75 per cent of cats and dogs in Britain suffer from some form of periodontal disease — most, if not all, of it preventable if pet owners took time to follow a regular dental routine.

As with humans, animals' teeth are prone to attack by plaque, a mixture of bacteria and food debris, which sticks to the surface of the teeth, especially near the gums. As plaque hardens it turns into calculus, which allows even more plaque to form. The bacteria contained in plaque causes the gums to inflame, creating a condition called gingivitis. This condition is reversible but if the plaque is not removed the inflammation may spread and cause periodontitis, which could result in the loss of teeth.

Stephen Corben, the managing director of St Jon Pet Care Products, which markets a range of toothbrushes, pastes and other dental hygiene products for cats and dogs, says: "Everybody wants to do the best for their pets but don't really want the task of cleaning their teeth. We aim to make it easy so that more will have a go."

He says the secret in success to cleaning teeth lies 80 per cent in the brush and 20 per cent in the toothpaste. "The mechanical action of regular brushing is the best thing to keep teeth and gums healthy."

Most good pet shops stock a range of pet toothpastes costing just a few pence. According to Mr Corben, most dogs will use about two and a half tubes a year and he estimates that pet owners need to spend about £15 a year on dental hygiene products for their animals.

The toothpaste we use is not suitable for animals. The detergents and abrasives used in human toothpaste are washed away when we rinse our mouths. Animals don't rinse so their toothpastes are made from ingredients which, when swallowed, will not cause gastric irritation. Manufacturers of animal toothpaste also remove the frothing agents.

Animal toothpastes are flavoured to appeal to their palates (beef, malt or chicken), because pets are more likely to cooperate with a toothbrush-wielding owner if their dental experiences have not left them with a bad taste in their mouths.

Daily tooth-brushing remains the single most effective method of removing plaque, says Cecilia Gorrel, the president of the British Veterinary Dental Association. But she concedes that many pet owners may manage to do this only three or four times a week. Her solution is to introduce the animal to a toothbrush at an early age. "If you start brushing their teeth when they are puppies or kittens, three times a week may be sufficient. But if you wait until they are older, it may



Tooth-cleaning set for pets

TEETH ROUTINE

- Introduce your pet to the toothbrush at a young age.
- Try to brush your pet's teeth regularly.
- Ensure your animal's diet includes abrasive material, which helps remove plaque, and the right kind of chewy things.
- Ask your vet to check your pet's teeth regularly. Your vet can also refer you to a veterinary dental specialist.
- For details of St Jon products for cats and dogs, write to St Jon Vets Products, PO Box 57, Egham, Surrey TW20 9AE (0800 626409).

need to be done daily or even twice daily."

Dr Gorrel advises introducing a toothbrush to a puppy or kitten gradually. A range of finger toothbrushes are on sale which slip over your finger like a glove and the brush-head is an effective method of removing food debris as well as massaging the gums.

Older animals can be less cooperative and the task may seem daunting when dealing with dogs and cats with reputations for aggressive behaviour. Owners should be patient and introduce the notion of teeth cleaning gradually. The taste of the paste often helps.

A bonus to teeth-cleaning is that owner and pet bond and mutual trust develops. When you have finished brushing, reward your pet with a small, chewable treat such as rawhide but not biscuits. Although biscuits and hide are abrasive, the hide has the advantage of encouraging prolonged chewing, which promotes salivation — an additional cleansing process to brushing, but never a substitute.

Another part of Dr Gorrel's programme for healthy teeth and gums is diet. "Dry food is better than wet because it has more of an abrasive effect. It also promotes chewing." The diet should be balanced and fibrous, she says, and attributes the longer lives of pets to correct



Open wide: like many family pets, this collie needs a regular dental routine and a well-balanced diet

diet and preventative health care. Dr Gorrel warns that food meant for humans can have a far higher sugar content than pet food. Cavities brought on by tooth decay are often found in pets which have been fed their owners' food. She advocates following the pet food manufacturers' instructions to ensure a balanced and fibrous diet.

The pet food industry spends fortunes researching how and what to feed our pets. While the cynic might say it's all to make profits, reputable manufacturers also address genuine veterinary concerns. You should never give a dog a bone, says David Watson, a vet and technical adviser to Pedigree Petfoods. "It may go against tradition but bones crack teeth," lodge in the digestive system causing constipation, and become unhygienic harbouring nasty diseases," he says.

Pedigree Petfoods addressed the need for chewing when they brought out Rask, a bone-shaped chew which offers all the jaw-exercise associated with real bones combined with nearly 20 per cent of a dog's daily nutrition requirements.

Pet rabbits and rodents have teeth which are constantly growing. If correctly positioned in the mouth they will grind and chisel against each other and so prevent them growing too long. But instances of misaligned teeth occur and, when that happens, your vet or a veterinary dentist can correct the fault.

Horses, too, can suffer from this condition, called malocclusion, and it is not uncommon to see a veterinary dentist filing the animal's teeth down to size.

Mr Watson says that even birds need dental attention. "A budgie's beak is its equivalent to teeth. It needs regular access

to cuttlefish so that it can rub its beak to keep it in trim."

The benefits of proper preventative steps are the reduction of disease, longer life, and a more comfortable mouth and bite for your pet. Mr Corben believes that British pet owners are becoming increasingly teeth-aware. "Up to 85 per cent of dental surgeries now stock animal dental products and about 30,000 people regularly brush their pets' teeth," he says.

Dr Gorrel adds: "People are now often better at keeping their pets' teeth clean than they are their own."

If your pet's teeth are cause for concern, consult your vet who will be able to treat the condition or refer your animal to a member of the British Veterinary Dental Association.

BRENDAN MARTIN

A Vet Writes...

A stitch in time speeds healing

TORN clothing needs stitches in time to stop the edges fraying or save the wearer from a charge of indecent exposure. Most cuts and wounds in an animal's skin need stitching, too, but not always.

A tear in living tissue is not the same as one in a ripped coat or trousers. Living tissues repair themselves. Stitches (sutures if you want, same thing) hold the edges of a wound together until they have joined. When the stitches are removed, or dissolve, the edges stay together, unlike torn fabric. Wounds from operations are fresh, clean cuts with little bruising or infection. Stitches close the incision and within a week the wound edges are rejoined.

Stitches speed up healing of clean cuts such as those from broken glass, but the cut pads of an animal are rarely stitched because the horny pad (or epidermis) isn't living tissue. The edges won't unite. A new horny covering has to grow.

Injuries to the eyelids or lips need precise suturing so that the healed wound doesn't kink or wrinkle and alter the shape of the eye socket or mouth.

Road traffic injuries are another matter. When an animal hits the Tarmac or rough concrete there's considerable bruising and patches of skin are mangled and rubbed raw. Suturing these wounds involves using as few stitches as possible to hold the skin in place but leaving gaps so the serum and infection can escape.

DOG BITES are usually not stitched unless a large piece of skin is flapping loose, when it has to be held in place, but puncture wounds heal best when there's an opening to allow the infection to drain away. When farm animals and horses are castrated the wound is rarely stitched, so fluid can't accumulate beneath the skin.

Injured animals often hide until they're feeling better. They return home days later with part-healed open wounds. The best treatment may be to clean the damaged area, control infection with antibiotics and let Nature do the repair work. It will. Wild animals are cut and bitten. We see very few of these wounds, but they heal without our help, though there may be considerable scarring and deformity afterwards. Some of this can be avoided in pet animals by starting again — treating a part-healed wound by trimming the edges to create fresh, bleeding surfaces which will join when they're stitched together, in the correct alignment.

JAMES ALLCOCK



Joe

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER PROMOTION

A private view of China

The Times, in association with the British Museum, invites readers to a private view of *The Mysteries of Ancient China*. Tickets for this stunning exhibition of spectacular new discoveries from China's recently excavated royal tombs and sacrificial pits are £10 each.

There is a choice of three evenings, Tuesday, September 17, Tuesday, September 24 or Monday, September 30 from 6.30pm-8.30pm.

Mysteries of Ancient China is the first major Chinese exhibition in London for 20 years. The exhibition's extraordinary bronze human sculptures were laid in sacrificial pits over 3000 years ago.

Also on display are a wealth of objects from the lavishly equipped tombs of later Chinese kings, queens and nobles. A particularly striking exhibit is the wonderful jade burial suit of Prince Liu Sheng of the 2nd century BC, worn in the belief that jade would ensure eternal life.

The evening will begin with a lecture by a leading expert on China, followed by a private view of the exhibition and a glass of wine. Invitations to these reader evenings are popular so it is advisable to apply now by filling in the coupon below and sending it with your remittance to: *The Times/British Museum Lecture & Private View*, THP, 45 Islington Park Street, London N1 1QB.



Museum Lecture & Private View, THP, 45 Islington Park Street, London N1 1QB.

As the number of places is limited, coupons should arrive by Monday, September 16, 1996.

THE TIMES/ BRITISH MUSEUM MYSTERIES OF CHINA

Please send me.....invitation(s) at £10 each for *The Times/British Museum Lecture & Private View* on September 17 ☐ September 24 ☐ September 30 ☐ from 6.30-8.30pm

(Please indicate 1st and 2nd choice) I enclose my cheque made payable to The British Museum

Mr/Ms/Miss/Me _____ First name _____

Surname _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Day Tel _____

If you do not wish to receive mailings of offers or services from *The Times* or companies carefully selected by *Times Newspapers* Limited please tick this box ☐

Learn about a dog's life

BONING up on dogs has become an official course. You can now go for a City & Guilds qualification in Canine Studies — covering the origins and history of dogs, dogs in society, training and healthcare. Information from the Federation of Dog Trainers and Canine Behaviourists, 49 Besturmont Road, Surrey CR3 2EJ (0181-668 9011).

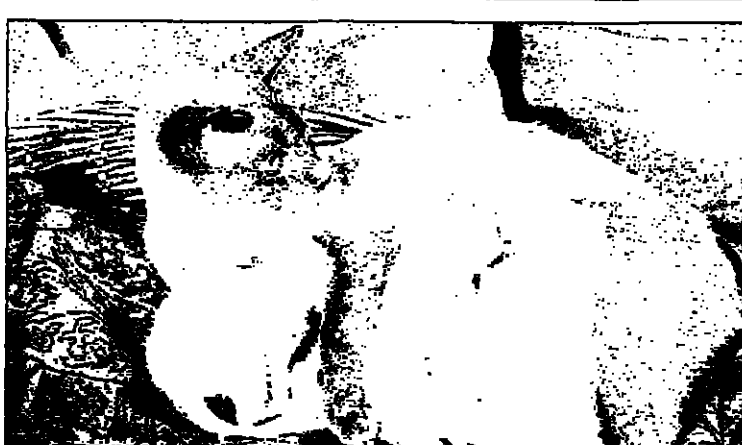
Battersea cats

BATTERSEA Dogs' Home is not just for dogs — stray and unwanted cats find their way there too and they are not all alley cats. Siamese and other pedigree cats end up going to the dogs. There is also a Siamese Rescue organisation with cats needing homes: 0181-664 8857.

Silent partner

THE BOOK *Buttons — The Dog Who Was More Than A Friend*, which was written in 1984 to describe work for children by Hearing Dogs for the Deaf, is being re-

PET NEWS



Even pedigree Siamese find a haven at the Battersea Dogs' Home

issued. It brings alive to children the importance of pets for deaf children. Information from Hearing Dogs for the Deaf 01844 353898 and Coli Books 01223 357047.

Poles apart

WANTED: loving owner for a Jack Russell called Kuba. Must

speak Polish, the language of Kuba's late owner. Call National Canine Defence League Rescue Centre at Roden on 01952 770225.

Puppy fat?

EVER wondered how much your dog weighs? You can find out at the Burghley Horse Trials at Stam-

ford, Lincolnshire, from Sept 5-8. Vets are staging a dogs "A-Weigh Day", and will weigh pets free and say what their ideal weight should be. A crèche to help dogs avoid becoming tired or distressed at the trials will be available in association with the Wood Green Animal Centre.

Stray alert

EACH year around 250,000 dogs — and possibly as many cats — are lost and some are never reunited with their owners. The National Strays Bureau, supported by Winalot, Felix and Pet Plan, has a Lost and Found service and from this month, owners can register their pets for a one-off payment of £7.50 for life. Ring 0990 168220.

Catalogue

QUOTE of the week (after a news story saying cats are ousting dogs as man's best friend): "Whoever heard of guide cats, guard cats, police cats, sniffer cats, tracker cats, mountain rescue cats, gun cats, sheep cats, hunting cats or racing cats?" Chapman Pincher.

JACK CROSSLEY

The kingfisher — a bolt from the blue

THE KINGFISHER has a skill not much in evidence among other birds — it can decelerate very rapidly. Sometimes when you are on a river bank you see one flash by like a bolt of brilliant blue light.

But if it spots a fish in the water below, it can pull up to a stop, hover, and dive down to catch it in a single movement. I saw one sitting in some brambles by a lake the other day. I did not detect it immediately, because this highly-coloured bird — blue and orange, white and black — was surprisingly well-camouflaged there. The first bramble leaves were turning pink and

burst merged into them, with the result that the distinctive kingfisher outline was completely broken up.

More often they sit on a protruding branch of a waterside tree, and I have watched them fishing from such a vantage-point. They add power to their dive by a few strokes of the wing as they go down, and they enter the water with a distinct splash.

Then they use their wings to climb up through the water again and, if they have been lucky, they come back to the perch with a fish in tow. They prefer skinny fish, such as minnows or sticklebacks

Feather Report

Diving is the essence of their lives. The young can even dive on the day they leave their nest-hole, and they are independent of their parents within three or four days. The adult pair usually has two broods, and the male begins excavating a new nest-hole even before the first brood young have fledged.

There are plenty of young ones around just now. They are not hard to distinguish if you get a good view. They look more green than blue, and for the moment their back that

back that will eventually turn them into flying neon lights. Kingfishers also dive to bathe, and sit preening themselves on a branch afterwards. Just like human beings, when they are finished they generally stretch and yawn before they go on their way.

DERWENT MAY

● What's about: *Binders* — Listen out for robins singing their autumn song. *Twitchees* — laughing gull at Epsom Warren, Wiltshire; cattle egret at Poole Harbour; sharp-tailed sandpiper at Fford Rwy, North Wales. Details from Rindline, 0841 710222. Calls cost 40p a minute plus 10p per line.



PETER BROWN

PROPERTY

9

Rachel Kelly on how 18th-century designs have been used to create new homes at Wiltshire's largest castle



Wardour Castle was built for Lord Arundell in the 1770s. More than £2 million has been spent making it into nine homes. Two east wing mews, which were demolished in 1969, will be rebuilt to restore the house's symmetry

For the past four years, workers have been busy knocking down, rebuilding, plastering, painting and gilding at Wardour Castle, Wiltshire's largest stately home and arguably one of England's greatest 18th-century houses.

Built for Lord Arundell in the 1770s, with a house and chapel designed by James Paine, Wardour blends severe exteriors with brilliant interiors. Work is nearly finished converting the house into nine flats, two of which have been sold and six let at about £20,000 a year.

But after repairs, estimated to have cost at least £2 million, funds have run dry. Yet more work is needed on stone repairs, renovating the remaining 30 per cent of the house's interior which has not yet been refurbished and the restoration of the Camellia House, walled garden and landscaping.

The developer Nigel Tursley hopes the remaining work will be funded by the sale of 16 additional houses in the grounds. Some will be conversions of existing buildings; others will be based on unrealised designs by the original architect, Richard Woods, including plans for a stable block.

This is standard practice. Few major restoration projects would be possible without what planners and developers term "enabling development": a trade-off whereby developers are allowed a limited degree of residential development to raise funds for an uncommercial venture perceived to be in the

public interest. The only oddity with Wardour is the order in which Mr Tursley has proceeded. Normally, a developer would begin work on an uneconomic restoration with his enabling development. But with funds from financial backers, Mr Tursley began the conversion. Only now is he applying for his enabling development.

Plans for the completion of Wardour's restoration are with Salisbury District Council, and a decision is expected in six weeks. The plans are thought to be the first attempt to restore a historic house using the original 18th-century designs of the estate, much of which was never executed. Of course the plans have had to be adapted. When Woods suggested improvements in 1764, the park covered 700 acres; Mr Tursley has just 53 acres. His plans include reinstating two east wing mews as four flats. These were part of Wardour's history for nearly 200 years, but were destroyed in 1969 to make way for new classrooms for the previous owners, Cranbourne Chase School. These extensions have been de-

A restoration drama



Architect's plans for Wardour Castle showing (1) the main block, (2) the east wing mews and (3) the Dover House

signed in a mirror image of the west mews, and their reinstatement will restore the house's symmetry.

Then there are plans to restore the four pineries in the walled garden as garden cottages. These were the heated buildings for growing pineapples. Clearly Woods did not envisage them as homes. Next is a scheme to realise Woods' proposals for a stable courtyard to the west of the castle, now to be eight family houses and one four-bedroom apartment. To be sold on 99-year leases for about £300,000. These would replace three existing 1960s staff houses

built by the school. Again, Woods would not have envisaged a residential use.

Though not part of Woods' plans, Mr Tursley hopes to construct a house and garage courtyard for residents to hide their cars and an orangery with an indoor swimming pool. All the buildings will be of local stone with slate roofs.

"We are trying to maintain the quality of design and execution expected in an estate of this importance when it was built, while generating sufficient funding

to restore the main houses and grounds," Mr Tursley says. Restoration projects of this size are not without hiccups. There is an ongoing squabble between Mr Tursley and the church's trustees about repairing the roof of the former private chapel at Wardour.

One resident of a 14-room flat in the east wing, Lord Rawlinson of Ewell, is unhappy about Mr Tursley's plans for new houses in the park. He suggests that if more funds are needed to fund the final stages of the restoration, more flats could be sold and the state rooms could engender income. He also

talks of "massive local opposition to the creation of 16 houses". Mr Tursley counters that he made his plans plain in advance, and that they were fully provided for in Lord Rawlinson's lease. He also says he can count on local support.

And though the Georgian Group is in favour of allowing the stable courtyard development if the financial case linking it to funding the repair of the existing building can be proved, it wants the other new buildings shelved or moved. But Mr Tursley has supporters. Other residents are in favour of his plans, and so broadly is English Heritage. There is no doubt that money from the courtyard sales will allow the rest of the castle to be repaired, allowing completion of one of the most ambitious and imaginative restoration projects this century.

John D. Wood (01262 863131) is sole agent for the listings and sale of houses on the Wardour Estate. There are eight houses and one apartment for sale in Wardour Court, four houses for let in the walled garden, and four in the east mews.

CASE STUDY

MARTIN CLARKE bought a £250,000 two-bedroom flat in Wardour Castle as a weekend home last May. His flat is at the front of the house, and runs the entire length of one floor, Justin Huggler writes.

There is a sense of spaciousness throughout, and the main reception room and the kitchen are particularly large. The reception room, which Mr Clarke uses as a drawing/dining room, is in the middle of the flat. There is a bedroom at each end. All the rooms have recovered oak floors, and the bathrooms are finished in marble.

Mr Clarke says his satisfaction with the flat is "unqualified". Wiltshire is a new part of the country for him - he comes from Lincolnshire and lives in London during the week. "It's a lovely area of outstanding beauty," he says.

All the amenities he needs are within easy reach, with supermarkets ten miles away in Salisbury.

Although he has no formal say in the development, Nigel Tursley, is always ready to listen to his and other residents' views. Mr Clarke was "surprised" that some residents were opposed to the latest development stage. He has known of the plans for a long time and is happy with them.

NORTH OF THE THAMES BARBARA: Repossession and auctioneer. 100-10000. 0171 553 3333. CHURCHILL: 100-10000. 0171 553 3333. LITTLE VERNON: 100-10000. 0171 553 3333.	CITY & WEST END BRISTOL: 100-10000. 0171 553 3333. W1: 100-10000. 0171 553 3333. W2: 100-10000. 0171 553 3333.	KENSINGTON & CHELSEA MUST SELL PIMLICO 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	RICHMOND & KINGSTON OFF KEN 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	DORSET 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	KENT CONVERTED 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	LINCOLNSHIRE 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	OXFORDSHIRE ARCHITECTURALLY DESIGNED 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	SUSSEX 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.
SOUTH OF THE THAMES CLAPHAM OLD TOWN 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	DOCKLANDS 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	NOTTING HILL GATE 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	KENSINGTON (W14) 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	KNIGHTSBRIDGE 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	GRINDLEFORD 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	ISLE OF WIGHT 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	MIDDLESEX 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	SOMERSET 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.
WANDSWORTH 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	FULHAM 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	PRINCEDALE RD 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	RICHMOND & KINGSTON 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	MAYFAIR 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	DEVON 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	LAND FOR SALE 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	NORFOLK 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	SUSSEX 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.
CITY & WEST END 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	KENSINGTON & CHELSEA 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	SOUTH KENSINGTON 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	KEW 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	ESSEX 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	HAMPSHIRE 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	HERTFORDSHIRE 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.	WILTSHIRE 2 bed, 2 bath, 2000 sq ft. 0171 553 3333.

DUNBAR WHARF
NARROW STREET LIMEHOUSE E14

Dunbar Wharf is an outstanding new development of superior apartments, some with river views in the fashionable area of Limehouse. The building benefits from a wide range of communal amenities, including secure parking. Sales centre opens 14th September. First release of 2 bedroom apartments from £165,000. For full details telephone: 0171-536 9380.

FAIRBAIRN

Prices reduced

for quality two bedroom apartments within easy travelling distance of the City. Hermitage Court, Wapping E1.

Bovis Homes Limited have recently reduced prices on a select number of previously rented prestigious 2 bedroom apartments at Hermitage Court, Wapping.

Hermitage Court is an attractive development centred around a tranquil landscaped courtyard, strategically located between Tower Hill and Wapping underground stations on the doorstep of the City of London. Prices quoted include light fittings, a fully fitted kitchen, carpets and curtains throughout and an allocated space in the secure underground car park.

APARTMENT 4	Previously £182,000	NOW £155,000
APARTMENT 25	Previously £191,950	NOW £135,000
APARTMENT 33	Previously £246,000	NOW £210,000
APARTMENT 63	Previously £209,500	NOW £185,000
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BOVIS HOMES

Bovis Homes is a P&O Company

Long farewell to a feudal oddity

Scotland's ancient system of sellers imposing strict conditions is coming to an end

In Scotland you can still sell property by a feu disposition, an ancient feudal system that lays down and enforces conditions which affect the particular property. Whoever lives there in the future is bound by them.

Sale in this way is generally used by those who want to exercise some control over a property and its surrounds, even though they have sold it. This might even include developers such as Wimpey, which wants to maintain standards on an estate, a local authority selling houses on a council estate or a landowner selling a parcel of land or a house on their land.

Though the system is finally to be abolished within the next few years, in consultation with the Scottish Law Commission almost 900 years after its introduction in Scotland, it has been responsible for much of the architectural continuity in the country.

Nine months ago the New Town Conservation Area in Edinburgh was a part of the city designated by Unesco as a World Heritage Site in recognition of its outstanding quality and character. Some of Edinburgh's most exclusive properties are in the area: five-storey houses there can fetch between £300,000 and £600,000, and sometimes more. The New Town, which lies north of Edinburgh Castle and includes Princes Street, Charlotte Square, Ann Street and Heriot Row, owes its character to feu dispositions. When landowners sold off land for development 200 years ago, these title deeds enabled them to impose strict control over any development then and in the future.

George Clark, the chairman of the Edinburgh Solicitors Property Centre, says: "They stipulated the height of the buildings and in some cases the type of stone and the quarry from where it should come."

Bigger developments, such as those by Wimpey, also benefit from the



IN 1982 George Clark bought a five-bedroom Victorian villa in Morningside, Edinburgh, for £56,000 from a private individual. Last century, the land where his house now sits formed part of the Greenhill Estate owned by Sir John Stuart Forbes. That land was sold in 1851 by a feu disposition, stipulating conditions for its future development.

Today the Forbes Estate, as it is called, still has "an interest" in Mr

VASSAL'S TALE

Clark's property because of the feu disposition. So it is his "feudal superior" and Mr Clark is its vassal.

Mr Clark says: "In practice, if I wanted to do any major outside alterations, I would have to ask permission not only of Edinburgh Council but also of the estate." If the estate said no, he could go to the Lands Tribunal.

stringent laws. Philip Simpson, Wimpey's regional solicitor in Edinburgh, says: "We impose conditions purely to benefit each of the individual owners on our private residential estates and to make the environment there as pleasant as possible."

The number of dogs and cats that people can have is limited to one of each and if someone wants to erect a satellite dish they have to consult Wimpey about its position.

Break the rules and ignore polite warnings to toe the line and you could face the ultimate sanction: having your house taken back by Wimpey. Repossession, though, is

rare. The threat is enough. This forfeiture is called "irritating the feu". Mr Simpson says that buyers accept this as part of the landholding system. "It's common for other developers to do as we do," he adds. "It helps to maintain house prices."

The feudal system was prevalent in medieval Europe and was a way in which land was granted by kings to those below them in return for military service and a pledge of allegiance. The king was deemed the superior and the lords were the vassals. Lords who had received land from the king could then sub-divide their estates on similar principles.

Mr Clark works for Morton Fraser Miligan, Edinburgh solicitors. The firm bought its offices in the New Town in 1880 on land once owned by George Heriot's Trust. The property was sold by feu disposition, so the law firm is a trust vassal.

It is also solicitors to George Heriot's Trust, so it organises any feu duties owed to the trust. Many sums are below £10 a year because feu duties are not linked to inflation and cannot be raised.

of householders (vassals) still pay to their superiors.

In theory, almost everyone in Scotland has a feudal superior, a person or a body that retains an interest in a certain property. Whether or not they can be traced is a different matter — superiors are not always named on the property deeds — and that has become more difficult since 1974, when a law was passed prohibiting the creation of any new feu duties and making their redemption compulsory when a property changed hands after that date.

In practical terms, though, the feudal system has come to mean less and less, although in certain areas it still has some relevance: for example if you pay feu duties and if there are restrictions on your property which have been laid down by a feudal superior.

In Scotland most property sold by individuals is done by straight disposition. Usually, on these occasions, the seller will attach no new conditions to a property. The buyer, however, will still be bound by any conditions that may have been laid down in a previous feu disposition. The statutory recourse for those wanting to discharge or vary the conditions of a feu disposition is the Lands Tribunal for Scotland.

By 2000, talk of vassals and superiors may finally be a thing of the past.

CHRISTIAN DYMOND

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

Feu disposition: a title deed that enables the person or body selling a property to impose certain conditions on its future development and use.

Feu duties: payments made by vassal to superior. The creation of any new feu duties has been prohibited since 1974.

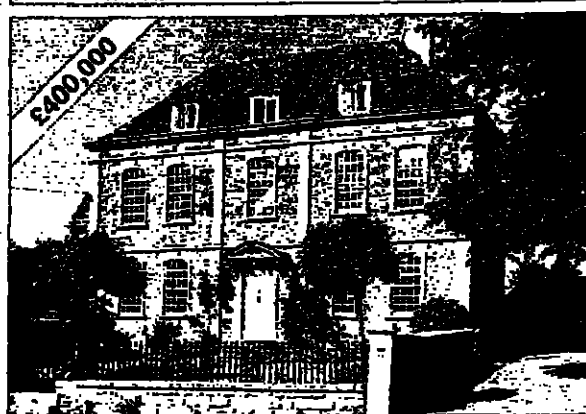
The Scottish Law Commission: its main job is to recommend ways in which Scottish law can be improved and brought up to date.

Lands Tribunal for Scotland: the statutory recourse to those who want to discharge or vary conditions laid down in a feu disposition when the superior is either unwilling to cooperate or can no longer be traced.

Irritating the feu: forfeiture of a vassal's property by the superior.

FOR SALE

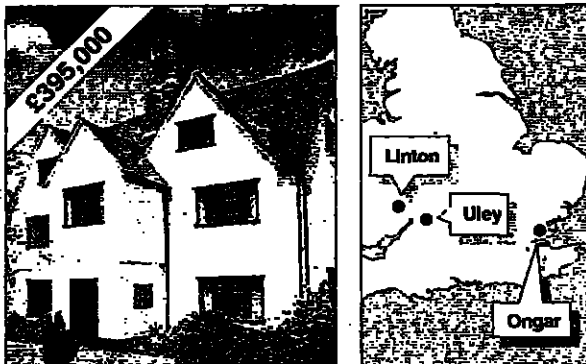
ABOUT £400,000



GLOUCESTERSHIRE
Goombe House, Uley. Grade II* listed 18th-century house with coachhouse, outbuildings and listed gazebo in an acre of gardens. Six bedrooms, nursery, three bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen, utility, garden room, two cloakrooms and cellars. About £400,000 (Jackson-Stops & Staff, 01285 653334).



HEREFORDSHIRE
Haygrove, Linton. An 18th-century country house in an acre of garden, five miles from Ross-on-Wye. Six bedrooms, three bathrooms, three reception rooms, kitchen/breakfast room, utility, cloakroom, cellar and roof terrace. About £400,000 (Knight Frank, 01432 273087).



ESSEX
Newhouse Farmhouse, Marden Ash, Ongar. Grade II* listed 17th-century house in 1.36 acres. Five bedrooms, two bathrooms, ensuite shower room, three reception rooms, kitchen, utility/dairy. Outbuildings and garaging. About £395,000 (Savills, 01245 263111).

CHERYL TAYLOR

AN EXCLUSIVE TIMES READER OFFER

Your passport to holiday bliss

Charming hotels, fine cuisine and good discounts with The Times/Relais & Châteaux Passport to Europe

This is the fourth year The Times and Relais & Châteaux have joined forces to give you the opportunity to stay at some of Europe's most luxurious hotels. And in 1996-97 your Passport to Europe special prices are better than ever.

There are more than 120 hotels in 17 different countries to choose from offering discounts between 25 per cent and 45 per cent. Many rates are only around £126 for two people, per night and that price includes room, dinner, breakfast, service and tax.

This year you can also travel to ski hotels in France, Switzerland and Austria. And you can take a late summer or an early spring break in Crete, Corsica, Italy, the Costa Brava and Brittany.

What makes The Times Relais & Châteaux offer irresistible is the reduction is not just on the price of a room. The food you get is always superb and twenty of our hotels have Relais Gourmands status, the equivalent of two or three Michelin stars.

All you have to do to take advantage of this offer, which begins on Monday, September 23 and ends

on Thursday, March 27, 1997, is collect four separate tokens from The Times or The Sunday Times, complete an application form for your Passport to Europe discount card, make a booking in advance and present the card on arrival at your hotel.

For the first time this year you can book on a free phone or fax line (the numbers will be in Monday's paper) to Relais and Châteaux's central reservations service in Paris.

On Monday a 24-page Relais & Châteaux supplement will appear in The Times giving full details and photographs of the participating hotels with their normal price, our discount price and the dates when our special offer is available. Also in the supplement is a comprehensive list of cross-Channel travel bargains from EuroDrive with savings of up to £100.

For our promotion we are joined by BT and an application form for a Chargecard, a boon for travellers, will appear in Monday's paper.

You can use a BT Chargecard from the Relais & Châteaux hot el of your choice, with calls billed for your convenience to your home or business line or your credit card. The Chargecard gives you access to more than 500 million phones worldwide in more than 120 countries, with direct dialling from over 30 countries, including most of Europe, North America and Australasia.

TO WIN A TRIP TO ITALY: SEE THE SUNDAY TIMES TOMORROW



THE TIMES



WIN A LUXURY SHORT BREAK FOR TWO IN THE BOHEMIAN CITY OF PRAGUE

You have the chance to win a two-night break for two at the Relais & Châteaux Hotel Hoffmeister, Prague (above). The prize includes return flights from the UK, the best double or twin room available with buffet breakfast and dinner on one evening. BT will also give the winner £500 worth of free Chargecard calls for the year. You can go to the exclusive

Hoffmeister anytime between November 1, 1996 and March 25, 1997, except for public holidays, subject to availability. Martin Hoffmeister, built this beautiful hotel as a tribute to his father, Adolf, a painter, writer and diplomat, whose illustrated cartoons of Picasso, Cocteau, Dali, Miro and the late President Mitterrand adorn the walls.

HOW TO ENTER

Call our hotline, below, with your answer to the following question: *What is the name of the president of the Czech Republic?* The winner will be chosen at random from all correct entries received before midnight on Sat, September 7. Times Newspapers competition rules apply.

RELAIS & CHATEAUX COMPETITION HOTLINE 0891 665 570

Calls cost 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at other times

RELAIS & CHATEAUX.
Relais Gourmands

Hilary Rubinstein on the art of running a top-notch hotel, taking lessons from the experts at Claridges in London

Ego-spotting from the foyer

GRAND HOTELS, like hospitals, courtrooms and opera houses, are natural arenas for human drama. Strangely, their potential has been poorly exploited. On TV, there has been *Fawlty Towers* — can you think of another? In fiction, Dickens and Arnold Bennett were fascinated by hotels, but among contemporary novelists only Anita Brookner, D.M. Thomas and John Irving have seized on their tragic and comic possibilities. As for non-fiction: apart from Ludwig Bemelmans and John Fothergill there is not, in my view, a single hotel history or innkeeper's memoirs worth a place in a bibliophile's library.

And now, hotel buffs, make room on your shelves for Jeffrey

■ **THE HOTEL: Upstairs, Downstairs in a Secret World** By Jeffrey Robinson Simon & Schuster, £17.99 ISBN 0 684 81691 1

Robinson's delicious confection of anecdotes about the backstage life of our flagship among hotels de grand luxe. The hero of *The Hotel* is Claridges: the staff are given their real names, the guests — a pungent stew of artful dodgers, bullies, conmen and congenial malcontents — have had their

identities disguised, for which they are doubtless truly grateful.

I have called Claridges the hero because, if Robinson is to be believed, it is a veritable paragon among its peers, run by workaholic perfectionists, who are at the same time endlessly long-suffering of their customers' eccentricities and egomania. The concierge is asked to arrange for a guest and his friends to take a ride on an elephant — it must be Indian not African — in Regent's Park. Without an eyelid's blink, this admira-

ble Jeeves is on to the London Zoo to inquire about elephant-renting. The night manager is rung at three in the morning by a client wanting a dozen Yorkshire puddings. That, too, he takes in his stride. But behind the scenes, the managers are talking not just of cabbages and kings, but of hard-nosed subjects such as occupancy, yield, rack rates and product.

Inevitably, though, there is much about heads of state and the unimaginably lavish preparations that are made to accommodate

their every whim. Nelson Mandela may have stayed at the Dorchester, but he is an exception. The set-piece in the book is an eye-popping account of the Queen's State banquet, hosted by the Amir of Kuwait. "For 96 minutes and about £170,000," Robinson sums up, "it had been a room of polite smiles and temperate conversation, filled with people wearing mildly uncomfortable clothes, who stood around making small talk as if their shoes were too tight. A room filled with people who

wanted until someone said they could leave, and then they left."

There's an element of humour in the book — Robinson hasn't really been such a ubiquitous fly-on-the-wall, and Claridges can't be that perfect — and he sometimes perpetrates a cliché too far such as when he says of the chef that he "made no bones about suffering fools badly". Forgive these minor peccadilloes: the book convinces you that this is what backstage life is like at hotels of this ilk. I haven't seen it done better.



Robinson: hotel lobbyist

Blank expressions, erotic obsessions

All dressed up
but not a lot
under the frills

■ **JUSTINE**
By Alice Thompson
Canongate, £12
ISBN 0 86241 603 5

ALICE THOMPSON'S novel *The Killing Time* was published to considerable critical acclaim, according to her (new) publishers, by Penguin in 1991. *Justine*, named after the heroine of the book of same title by the Marquis de Sade, is Thompson's first novel. "First novel" — it has truly become an expression in its own right, like "first love". Unfortunately, the first novelist is prey to exactly the same danger as the first lover. To have read too much beforehand spells disaster. *Justine* is an example of the emperor so richly clothed that the pale human, the beating heart beneath, can only be presumed dead.

The publishers of *Justine* — unwittingly maybe — have brought this problem forcefully to the reader's attention in their design of the novel. A sumptuous jacket dresses up a surprisingly short book on

sexual obsession, a text all dressed up with nowhere to go. Every second two-page spread of luscious ivory paper has been left blank and the printed pages are uncut — you could use *Justine* as a doodle pad. Uncut pages speak (too soon) of a text quite simply too salacious for open display on the new titles tables in our homely high street bookshops. The title, the publishing gimmick, both bring us back to the erotic tradition of de Sade. If only there was something in

the writing that linked up there too.

The odd sentence (and the author must know which one in particular, as she uses it three times over) bloomed beautifully, with such heavy odour that you could well believe yourself in the presence of a writer of great potential who is passing through a briefly sterile patch. But too rarely was the dust rearranged in this mausoleum of self-dramatising literary characters, wrapped in their private fug of opium and second-hand eroticism. Only now and then did the writer's genuine talent shine through. Here was pornography without sex, in a novel which was repetitious without being insistent, obsessive without being erotic, full of knowledge but devoid of power.

HELEN STEPHENSON

Potent Irish brew

■ **EUREKA STREET**
By Robert McLiam Wilson
Secker & Warburg, £15.99
ISBN 0 436 20284 0

a touched-up picture of himself with the Pope hanging on his bedroom wall, the Pope came to Belfast and Chuckie got in the way of the cameras), is planning how to become a millionaire.

His first scam (involving outside sex toys) is local. His second is transatlantic: twigs dipped in varnish are shipped to America as leprechaun

walking sticks. His third (restaurants, with Irish lasagne made from potato) is European. While Chuckie sells Irishness abroad, Jake, Chuckie's middle-aged mother Peggy, and all their friends, live it back home.

Eureka Street is a very fine novel indeed, and Robert McLiam Wilson's panoply of characters is unforgettable. His writing is as potent as the coffee Jake drinks ("black as Mick here and strong as radiator paint").

What is most striking is McLiam Wilson's range: tragedy, comedy, realism, absurdism, and refreshing political insight. It is not an exaggeration to claim, as McLiam Wilson's publishers do, that *Eureka Street* is "a novel of Ireland like no other". While Chuckie is bewildered in Belfast, I am staggered by McLiam Wilson's scope.

MARY LOUDON

Behind the screen image

■ **GHOSTING**
By John Preston
Black Swan, £6.99
ISBN 0 552 990667 X

DICKIE CHAMBERS, narrator of John Preston's accomplished first novel, is a true professional — a man who never lets his private life interfere with his job, which is that of a television presenter. As the compere of a popular television quiz show during the 1960s, his position seems unassailable: why then, at the peak of his career, is he impelled to throw it all away? In this intriguingly offbeat work, Preston explores the reasons for his protagonist's crack-up, focusing on the disjunction between private and public selves in the world of radio and television, and ex-

NOVELS IN BRIEF

tracing a good deal of sly humour from his subject.

■ **A PLAY OF LIGHT**
By Henrietta Soames
Headline, £16.99
ISBN 0 7472 1809 9

LAVINIA MAIR, narrator of Henrietta Soames's sparsely written study of old age, is a retired actress, once a beauty, sustained by her memories of the past and by her resentment at the indignity of growing old. Her only visitor at the small country hotel where she is living out her remaining years is Father Gregory, a member of the religious order which has taken over the house once owned by Lavinia's

lover, Teddy, scion of an old Catholic family. The novel moves between the present and episodes set in the past describing Lavinia's relationship with Teddy, whom she loved but could never marry because his religious beliefs did not permit him to divorce his wife. Henrietta Soames achieves sympathy for her central character by making her seem indomitable, not pathetic.

■ **CHILDISH THINGS**
By Marita van der Vyver
Michael Joseph, £15.99
ISBN 0 7181 4130 X

SET IN South Africa during the 1970s, Marita van der

Vyver's novel deals with the relationship between two white South African girls — shy Mart and extrovert Dalena — both struggling towards independence in a world dominated by the unthinkingly reactionary views of their parents' generation, and overshadowed by the ever-present threat of civil unrest. Mart and Dalena take refuge from these unpleasant realities in the usual way of 17-year-olds everywhere — by going to parties and experimenting with alcohol and sex. As a result, Dalena becomes pregnant, and the resulting scandal drives the two friends apart. Van der Vyver writes perceptively about the delights and agonies of growing up.

CHRISTINA KONING

CHILDREN'S BOOKS

Toying with possibilities

A DISABLED old lady stands on a stool decorating a Christmas tree in a room filled with beautifully sewn human-sized rag dolls. She slips and topples over backwards. Sewn silk hands reach out, break her fall — then quickly return to their positions.

In horror-fiction this scene would reek of menace. In the hands of Sylvia Waugh, it is filled with love and compassion, for the dolls are the Mennyns, Waugh's family of rag dolls whose lives are devoted to avoiding detection without losing dignity. We see the world through their button eyes as a place of danger where discovery would mean imprisonment as monsters.

I half-expected *Mennyns Alive* (Julia MacRae, £9.99 ISBN 1 85 681012 5) to reveal the Mennyns metamorphosing at last into flesh and blood, after 50 years of growing ever more knowledgeable but never more mature. But Waugh, knowing how children treasure certainties, has ended her five-novel series with the Mennyns happy, yet rag dolls for ever. These are unforgettable books that rank with Mary Norton's *The Borrowers* for sensitivity and integrity.

Carol Hughes's *Toots*

(Bloomsbury, £3.99, ISBN 0 7474 2663 X) is for children aged eight and upwards who hang their heads over the edge of the sofa to see what the world looks like upside-down. When Toots does this one day and sees an overweight fairy walk across the ceiling, she herself becomes inverted, in an inventive and clever book spoiled by being too obviously a novelisation of a screenplay. A little boy called Albert also gets to see things differently when he falls off a cliff and is swept up by the Cloud Children in John Birmingham's *Cloudland* (Cape, £9.99, ISBN 0 224 04581 4). Stunning photographs of skylarks mixed with Birmingham's highly distinctive drawings gently help the young reader (three and upwards) to look at the heavens afresh.

Irreverence is Nicholas Allan's trademark but *Heaven* (Hutchinson, £6.99 ISBN 0 09 176537 4) is a gentle look at the afterlife, and ideal for a four to seven-year-old who is asking about death. Do not buy Russell Hoban's *Bedtime for Frances* (Cape, £9.99 ISBN 0 224 04601 6) if your child has a bedtime routine of military precision: the rest of us, and three-year-olds upwards, can enjoy Hoban's elegant and rhythmic story about a little animal (wistfully drawn by Garth Williams) who knows every trick in the book from the old glass-of-water gambit to "there is something moving the curtains," to stave off the moment of sleep.

SARAH JOHNSON

Old favourites remain at the top

The Times Bestseller List

HARDBACK				
	No. weeks	Last week	Weekly sales	
1 LONGITUDE Dava Sobel (<i>Fourth Estate</i> , £12)	1	4	1,654	
2 TOMB OF GOD Richard Andrews (<i>Little, Brown</i> , £20)	0	0	1,051	
3 DELIA SMITH'S SUMMER COLLECTION Delia Smith (<i>BBC</i> , £14.99)	38	1	644	
4 STAND BY STAND BY Chris Ryan (<i>Century</i> , £15.99)	5	3	642	
5 GUNPOWDER PLOT Antonia Fraser (<i>Weidenfeld</i> , £20)	3	8	575	
6 WAR WALKS Richard Holmes (<i>BBC</i> , £16.99)	5	29	538	
7 POPCORN Ben Elton (<i>Simon & Schuster</i> , £12.99)	5	2	536	
8 CONCISE OXFORD DICTIONARY OF CURRENT ENGLISH H.W. Fowler (<i>Oxford University Press</i> , £15.99)	38	18	395	
9 GUESS HOW MUCH I LOVE YOU Sam McBratney (<i>Walker</i> , £3.99)	10	59	369	
10 MILLER'S ANTIQUE PRICE GUIDE: 1997 M & JH Miller (<i>Millers</i> , £21.99)	3	5	364	
11 HUNCHBACK OF NOTRE DAME Victor Hugo (<i>Ladybird</i> , £1.99)	13	10	350	
12 CHAMBERS DICTIONARY (<i>Chambers</i> , £25)	15	197	344	
13 COMPLETE BABY AND TODDLER MEAL PLANNER Annabel Karmel (<i>Ebury</i> , £9.99)	38	4	341	
14 BEANO BOOK: 1997 (<i>D.C. Thompson</i> , £4.99)	1	88	338	
15 RUNAWAY JURY John Gribkham (<i>Century</i> , £16.99)	15	19	286	
16 KEEPER OF GENESIS Robert Bunsell (<i>Heinemann</i> , £16.99)	17	31	277	
17 OWL BABIES Martin Waddell (<i>Walker</i> , £3.99)	0	0	274	
18 X-FILES: RUINS KJ Anderson (<i>Voyager</i> , £12.99)	12	6	264	
19 ANNE HOOPER'S POCKET KAMA SUTRA Anne Hooper (<i>Dorling Kindersley</i> , £5.99)	4	45	232	
20 HEINEMANN ENGLISH DICTIONARY Katherine Harber (<i>Heinemann</i> , £6.99)	3	322	225	

This Times list monitored 40,712 titles representing high street sales of £4.3 million during the week.

SUPPLIED BY WHITAKER BOOKTRACK (01420 548420)

WHAT ARE children actually reading? We have delved into this question through the resources of Whitaker BookTrack which monitors sales at 600 bookshops throughout Britain. The table below shows the current top-selling children's authors, based on the number of titles they have in the top 5,000 titles of all categories sold last month.

The winner on this basis is Roger Hargreaves, the creator of the *Mr Men* series. It is amazing how well these little books are still doing, with their simply-drawn characters each exemplifying some human characteristic, and the comic lessons they teach. The BookTrack computer shows *Mr Tickle*, *Mr Snow* and *Mr Tall* at the head of the list, with more than 800 copies each sold. Horror comes next, in the form of the *Gonshumps* and *Point Horror* series by R.L. Stine. Interestingly enough, in our survey last week of the current top bestsellers of all kinds, Stine emerged as No 1. *It Came From Beneath the Sink* (ugh!) is Stine's bestseller. Enid Blyton comes third.

with the "Five" books doing best, and *Five on a Treasure Island* at the top. Also on the list are A.A. Milne and Beatrix Potter. The presence of these three will please different kinds of traditionalists. I am most glad about Beatrix Potter — *Peter Rabbit* leads her field. And it is not surprising to find Roald Dahl here, with *James and the Giant Peach* the children's favourite.

All human life really seems to feature in this list. Katherine Applegate has a series of books about "falling in love". Dick King-Smith is the author of *The Sheep-Pig*, which was made into the tear-jerking film *Babe*.

Martin Handford is the author of the delightful *Where's Wally?* series, where you have to look for a bespectacled Wally among hordes of Stone Age men or Crusaders.

But it is especially interesting to find here Rhona Whiteford, whose books include *Addition and Subtraction* and *Spelling*. I am afraid that these are purchases by desperate parents.

DERWENT MAY

BESTSELLING CHILDREN'S AUTHORS

Author	Total sold four weeks to Aug 10	No of titles in top 5,000	Total sales revenue all titles
Roger Hargreaves	39,190	79	£49,454
R.L. Stine	47,632	55	£166,523
Enid Blyton	10,758	45	£38,118
Roald Dahl	34,932	36	£150,492
Jean Adamson	8,077	28	£18,088
Dick King-Smith	10,761	28	£37,043
Lucy Daniels	9,727	21	£25,884
Katherine Applegate	8,702	19	£22,844
A.A. Milne	4,015	16	£39,385
Terry Deary	8,603	14	£29,248
Martin Handford	7,184	14	£19,887
Beatrix Potter	3,713	14	£13,776
Eric Hill	3,102	12	£9,525
Rhona Whiteford	3,889	12	

Sharon Penman

The Queen's Man

The first in a medieval mystery series from the author of *When Christ and His Saints Slept*

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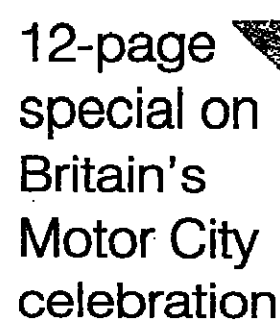
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The race
to carry
No 1 in
the grand
parade



TRIBUTE TO COVENTRY

SATURDAY AUGUST 31 1996

It's been a tough, turbulent century for the motoring city, reports Alan Copps, but Coventry is now driving on into exciting carmaking frontiers by exploring alternative power sources and launching new models

Driving cars to Coventry might sound a bit like carrying coals to Newcastle, but it is more complicated. Cars come in such a baffling array of shapes, sizes, forms, quality and quantity that finding the right ones for a celebration is like finding the winning numbers for the National Lottery.

But Coventry is fortunate. Although it was purely by chance that it became the birthplace of Daimler, and hence of the British motor industry which celebrates its centenary this year, its motoring heritage is richer than that of any other British city. So, this motor in the City weekend sees an unprecedented gathering of vehicles, old and new to mark the foundation of an industry which struggled for survival in its infancy but within decades became the biggest manufacturing business in the country.

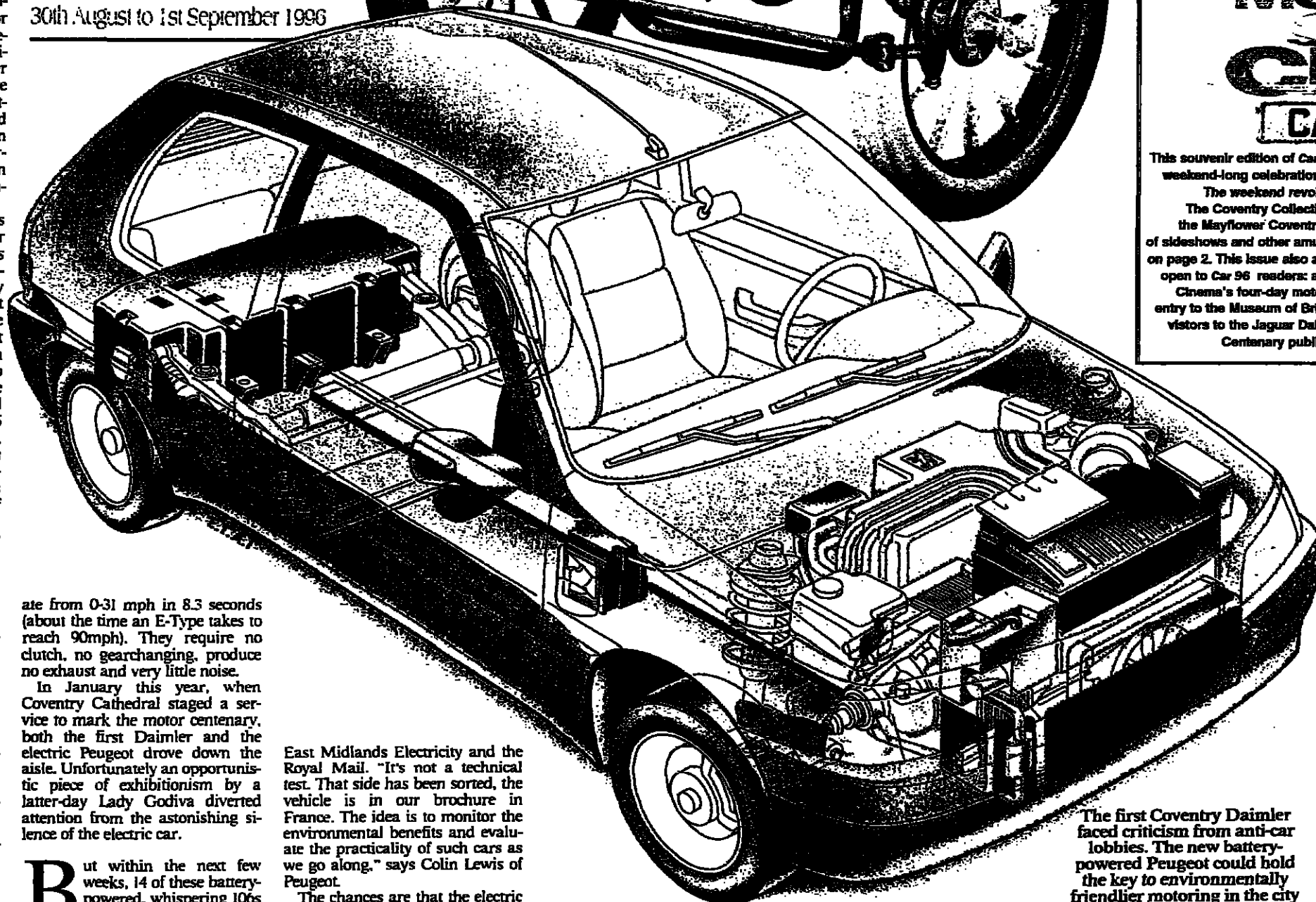
burning optimism in the country. Despite a hundred years of ups and downs, the city still has firm carmakers, and the host of firms supplying components to the industry worldwide. So Motor in the City is not just a wallow in nostalgia. It is also a celebration of future developments: Coventry's most famous carmaker, Jaguar, which includes Daimler, is just about to launch the XK8, hailed as the successor to the classic E-Type, and its most important sports car for 25 years. Its specialist carmaker, London Taxis International, is enjoying unprecedented export success with the black cab, which has become a worldwide symbol of Britain. Many of these companies are contributing to the Thrust SSC project, the British attempt to set a supersonic land-speed record.

But given all the current health, cost and environmental concerns that the industry faces, one of the most important forward-looking projects must be that led by Peugeot, the city's largest carmaker, to put a fleet of electric vehicles on the streets of Coventry.

The first Daimlers produced in the city were two-cylinder machines of 4.5 horsepower, slightly shorter than a Mini and more than eight-feet high when the elephant-hide hood was in place. They had rear-wheel brakes and four-speed gearboxes, the only means of regulating speed since the engine worked at a constant pace. They weighed a hefty 1.8 tonnes, had candlepower lights and a top speed of about 24mph. You could hear them clanking hundreds of yards away and the fumes may have come as a refreshing blast along roads ankle-deep in horse manure.

The electric cars which Peugeot will be putting on the streets later this year will be versions of the best-selling 106, powered by 20 nickel-cadmium batteries that can be recharged in six hours from any 13-amp household socket, at a cost of about 40p. They will have a range of about 50 miles, a maximum speed of 56mph and accelera-

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ate from 0-31 mph in 8.3 seconds (about the time an E-Type takes to reach 90mph). They require no clutch, no gearchanging, produce no exhaust and very little noise.

In January this year, when Coventry Cathedral staged a service to mark the motor centenary, both the first Daimler and the electric Peugeot drove down the aisle. Unfortunately an opportunistic piece of exhibitionism by a latter-day Lady Godiva diverted attention from the astonishing silence of the electric car.

But within the next few weeks, 14 of these battery-powered, whispering 106s will be appearing on the streets of the city. No one thinks that an electric 106 with a range of just 50 miles is the answer to the future of the motor car, but it is about as close as any major manufacturer has yet got to producing a practical exhaust-free vehicle for city transport. In France, the electric 106 has been in the company's brochure for just under a year and 700 have been sold.

In the first stage of the Coventry experiment, 14 car and van versions will join the fleets of Peugeot. Coventry city council, Powergen,

East Midlands Electricity and the Royal Mail. "It's not a technical test. That side has been sorted, the vehicle is in our brochure in France. The idea is to monitor the environmental benefits and evaluate the practicality of such cars as we go along," says Colin Lewis of Peugeot.

The chances are that the electric vehicles will replace diesel-powered cars and vans which make regular short trips around the city centre; mail collection would be one obvious use. Those on Peugeot's own fleet will probably be used for commuting between the company's various plants around the city. An example of the electric 106 is included in this weekend's Coventry Collection and will also be on display at Coombe Abbey Country Park during the Shakespeare Run on Sunday.

The Coventry electric experiment will begin as soon as EC funding is

in place. James Russell, assistant director for strategy and planning at Coventry City Council, says: "It's part of a wider programme of securing European funding for alternatives to the petrol-driven car. For some years we have seen this as part of the solution to problems of pollution. Coventry up until now has avoided the worst

which now has avoided the worst excesses of congestion because of road-building policies in the 1960s and 1970s. But we realise that cannot be the solution now, so we have to find alternative means.

"We are fortunate that, because of our links with Peugeot, we are ideally placed to carry out such an experiment. These vehicles could be used for site inspections or visiting people at home in the city centre. A number of people from the council have tried them and found them to be more than adequate for inner-city use."

The idea of silent, battery-powered cars gliding round the streets is appealing to an industry that finds itself under increasing pressure on the environmental

The first Coventry Daimler faced criticism from anti-car lobbies. The new battery-powered Peugeot could hold the key to environmentally friendlier motoring in the city

front, both in terms of popular protest and stricter governmental regulations. But it's an industry which has faced pressure from the start. The drivers of these electric vehicles share something with the pioneers who drove the first clanking machines over unmade roads when the industry still had to see off those who would have the horseless carriage forever preceded by a man with a red flag. The foundation of the British motor industry dates from the incorporation in early 1896 of the Daimler

Motor Syndicate, not the first carmaker in Britain, but the first company set up to make cars for sale to the general public.

It found itself in Coventry simply because Harry J. Lawson, one of the crooks on its board, decided to buy a disused cotton mill there that had been bought by a friend as a speculation. The building was quite unsuitable for a car factory, the only argument for its purchase being that the city had a thriving bicycle industry that might provide some expertise for motor makers.

It was a pretty hazardous start, and a cynic might perceive modern parallels to the foundation of Daimler, a teaming of brilliant but underfunded British engineers like Frederick Simms with a devious financier determined to turn a fast buck by exploiting technology that had been developed in Germany and improved in France.

Since then more than a hundred carmakers have come, and most of them have gone. In Coventry, the city's fortunes have been inextricably linked with an industry that has had more than its fair share of ups and downs in the past hundred years. The downs, like the awful industrial problems and upheavals in ownership during the 1960s and 1970s, were always certain to make headlines. The ups, like the astonishing improvements in design and build-quality over the last few years, exemplified by Coventry's remaining major carmakers, Jaguar, Rover and Peugeot, invariably attract less attention — until a driver steps into one of the current products.

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MOTOR CITY TIMES

FRIDAY: The Coventry Collection: 20-mile parade of cars representing manufacturers who have operated in the city. Followed by a public display in Bond Street.

SATURDAY: Motor City Challenge
9am. Cars participating in the driving skills test set out from National Grid HQ, Kirby Corner (see page 7).
9.20am. Cars arrive for first test at the Peugeot plant, Ryton. Spectators are welcome here, and at following venues.
9.55am. First car arrives at Draycote Water country park.
10.55am. First car arrives at Cotton House management college near Junction 1 of the M6.

Noon. First car arrives at BEN Residential Home, Town Homes near Easenhall.

12.10pm. First car arrives at Motorcycle Museum, Bickenhill, for tests and display by Russ Swift, stunt driver for the Rover Display Team.

5.20pm. First finishers arrive at National Grid HQ.

Entertainments in Market Way and West Orchards Shopping Centre.

10.15am. Motor 100 Film Season opens at Odeon Cinema, Jordan Wall, with *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* (U).

Noon to 4pm. Jaguar-Daimler Heritage Trust opens specially for Car 96 readers at the Jaguar factory, Alseley, with videos, guided tours and free refreshments.

SUNDAY: Mayflower Coventry Shakespares Run

10am. First of 472 vehicles representing 100 years of the British motor industry leave Coombe country park outside Coventry for a 65-mile run. (see page 5)

10.10am. First vehicle arrives in Broadgate in Coventry city centre, before heading off on the drive to Kenilworth, Solihull and Henley-in-Arden.

11.55am. First vehicle arrives in Henley Street, Stratford-upon-Avon, en route for Warwick and Leamington Spa.

1.30pm. First vehicle expected back at Coombe park prize-giving, pictures and public display to follow.

Entertainment: 2.40pm. Film session continues at Odeon Cinema with *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* (15) followed at 4.30pm by *Days of Thunder* (15).

TUESDAY:
12.30pm. Film season ends at Odeon with *Genieview* (U).

The Museum of British Road Transport, Heale Street, is open every day from 10am to 5pm (see page 9).

Much of our obsession with so-called classic cars has arisen through the lack of sensible transport alternatives

Myths should go down the Tube

Access the Internet, call up one of the "search engines" that makes info-hunting a touch easier, and input the key-words "classic cars". Start the search. The Net produces no less than 26,941 headings and, no, I have not read all of them. But I have downloaded enough to prove that motorist's past is by no means just a British obsession.

Here, for instance, is the web site for Hyannis Restoration of Cape Cod, USA, "a respected buyer, seller and locator of great automobiles". And here is Cougar Classic Cars, "the web site of the thinking man's (or woman's) Mustang".

And then there is The Five Club, which is for Israeli collectors of classic cars. It claims 1,000 members owning 1,500 cars and the club runs everything from seminars "on issues relating to maintenance, repairs and restoration" to picnics.

The connection between all of that and the rest of us is this weekend's Motor in The City event. The passion for classic cars is only partly a matter of nostalgia. Most of this

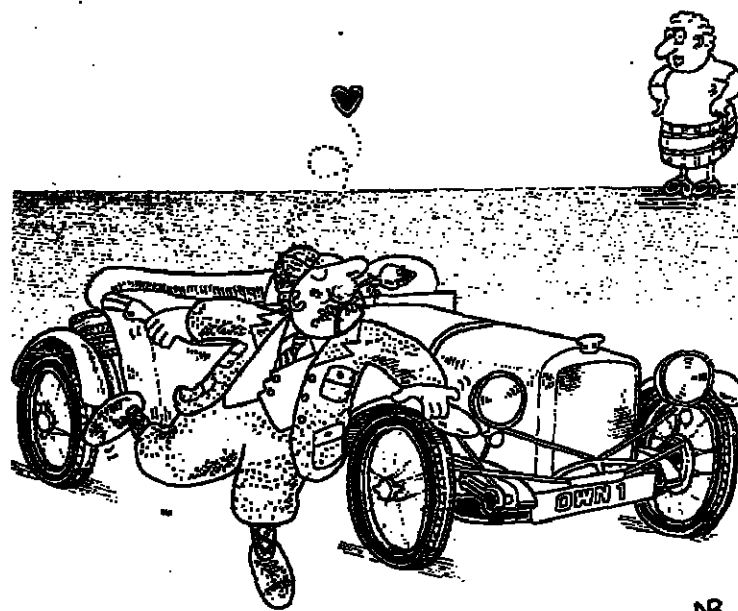
passion has to do with the nature of the beast, for the motor car is one of the very few inanimate objects which has become an object of love. It attracts most of the seven deadly sins, including lust and envy.

I will be writing in a few weeks about the end of the Jaguar XJS. I have been driving one this week. At a petrol station the other day, a woman passing the XJS stroked the bonnet. At a traffic light, a bicycling girl several years younger than the

XJS marque called out the word "lovely". Sadly, she meant the car.

The car as sex symbol, the car as mobile lounge, the car as mobile office. Drive a Volvo and assumptions are made. Ditto a Ferrari. I suspect the assumptions are often wrong, arising from what the driver wishes to be rather than what he is, but with cars, images stick.

There is an underlying purpose, a subconscious agenda, associated with classic cars. I believe we are



N8

Of course there are real classics, genuine groundbreakers, outstanding beauties. You will see the best of them if you are at Coventry this weekend. But the location is appropriate, for the car lobby is being sent to Coventry by activists in a society which is turning against the car.

We have only ourselves to blame. Only this week, but not in this newspaper, I read that Britain "has the highest car ownership in Europe". This is a fallacy. We are far down the car ownership league. What Britain does have is the highest car use in Europe, which is another matter.

I do not believe Britons are more obsessed with cars than other people. When I lived for a few months in Frankfurt, it never occurred to me to get in a car because Frankfurt has a superb subway system: clean, fast, frequent, reliable. Try using those adjectives about the London Underground.

We have become dependent on the car because there is no sensible alternative. And we have been obliged to justify our dependence by turning the car into an icon, a god.

A David Hockney or a Beryl Cook painting would have nothing of its fascination, were it not part of a continuum, a seamless web from Titian and Rembrandt. Classic cars are our Rembrandts: they are the past that justifies the present. But for how long?

Wheels that went into reverse

More than 130 sites where men once made cars have been identified in Coventry; today, only four remain.

Kevin Eason looks at the rise and fall of Britain's motoring Klondike

The biggest difference between Coventry and the Klondike was the weather — and the fact that gold-diggers heading for the Midlands would need a spade, not a shovel.

Coventry is the home of British carmaking, the city where the brains and brawn of industry came together a century ago to forge the beginnings of Britain's biggest manufacturing industry. Instead of having a pub on every street corner, Coventry had a car factory — more than 130 sites have been identified in and around the city.

Describing some of the earliest ventures as factories is probably to invest them with a sense of organisation and size that was actually non-existent. Many were little more than a couple of blocks, basing at bits of metal with little or no clue as to how the internal combustion engine worked, never mind how it was supposed to carry passengers safely and reliably.

But those pioneers were, at least, filled with optimism. Like the gold-diggers of Alaska, the men who plunged into the fledgling car business at the turn of the century believed that they were building futuristic machines for the new century. And there were fortunes to be made if they could repeat the success of the great mill owners, engineers and railway entrepreneurs who had fired imaginations around the world, creating the Industrial Revolution.

Some car firms were brilliant flames that flared and died and were never thought of again, except by dedicated relations or enthusiasts. Companies such as Velox and Clukey, Rudge and Calcutt, Maudslay, Endurance, Daisy, Autavia, Coronet, Duryea, Forman, Glover, Lotus, Record, Progress and Omega struggled into existence and then lost the fight for survival. Some lasted a few decades before their cars were consigned to the historical scrapheap of the motor industry; some managed only a few weeks, as entries in the definitive study on Coventry's motoring past shows.

In the list of 132 names drawn up by Dr Paul Collins and Dr Michael Stratton, the

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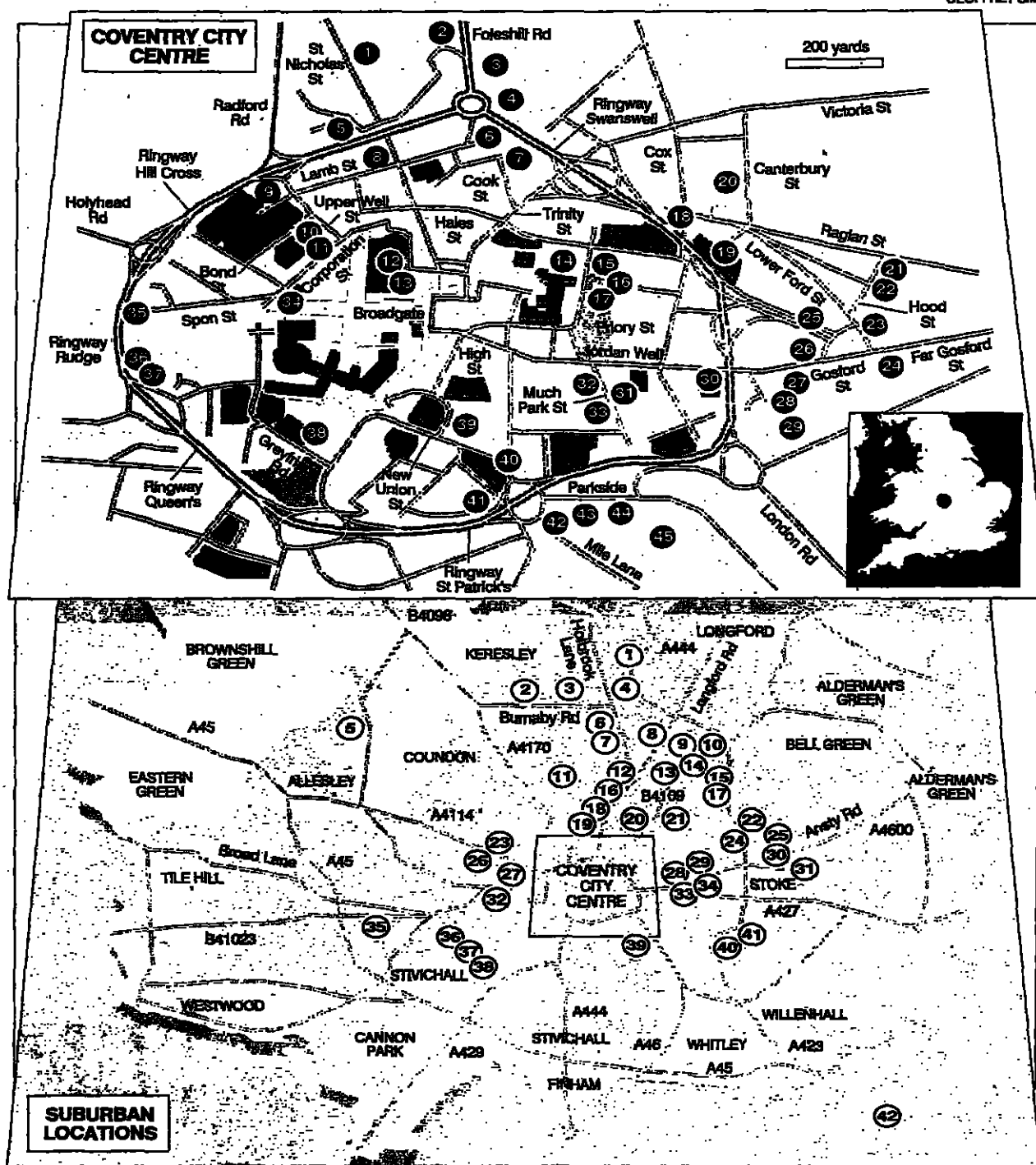
eye immediately falls on the second name: Acme, founded at 6, Lincoln Street, in 1919; out of business 1919. Nobody now knows the story of Acme, who started it and why the founders thought they could make a car — if they even succeeded in making one at all — and what forced them to give up so quickly. But Acme was not alone in glorious failure: Arno was opened at 85, Gosford Street in 1908 and shut in the same year; British Business Motors was another, one-year wonder, as was Dawson, the improbably named Chota and lots of others.

Some companies were to become household names, only to fall victim to complacency, takeovers or downright incompetence, such as Hillman, Singer, Riley, Rudge, Triumph, Lea-Francis, Austin, Morris and even Daimler, regarded as the first of the British — and Coventry — line.

Why Coventry should become the motoring Klondike was down to the city's credentials as a manufacturing city. As far back as the 18th century, the city was teeming with dozens of factories dedicated to ribbon-weaving and watch-making.

But fashions change, and even then British industry was vulnerable to cheap imports. Enterprising manufacturers decided to opt out of dying trades and look to new technology for their future — actually, slightly more humble than technology but a big deal at the time, because bicycles were to be all the rage at the end of the 19th century. Coventry's workers had a long tradition in factories that used machinery and their engineering and operating skills were easily transferable from weaving to bike-making.

John Kemp Starley was one of the men drawn to Coventry in 1877 to set up shop over a



ribbon-weaving factory. He found a partner in William Sutton, and together they invented a bicycle that they called the Rover.

Rover's bone-shaking frame had barely hit the streets, however, before Starley was awed by another new-fangled machine which he realised could revolutionise transport: from two-legged power, Starley wanted to move into power from the internal combustion engine.

Some of Starley's contemporaries were already prepared. Frederick Simms cleverly buying the patent to the Daimler motor car that had been designed by Gottlieb Daimler in Germany.

By 1895, the men of Coventry

were jostling for position to be first to market with something that we would recognise today as a car. The Lancaster brothers had already built a car in 1895 and five years later had a factory in Sandy Lane turning out models which were to become some of the most prestigious in the world.

But it was Simms, together with the rough Harry J. Lawson, who first incorporated a car manufacturing business in 1896: the British Motor Syndicate. It still took a year for the first Daimlers to appear, but by that time, the Midlands' great Car Rush was at full speed. Factories were springing up

all over the place, the residents of Coventry, more used to the sedate and quaint industries of ribbon-weaving and watch-making, suddenly having to dodge oddball contraptions out on half-raising test runs around the city. And the fast-growing industry was sucking in the British equivalent of Klondikers, men and women who were moving to the Midlands in search of work in car factories where they would be taught skills and where they could earn more money than in almost any other industry.

By 1911, there were nearly 7,000 Coventry car workers, more than anywhere else in Britain; ten years later, that figure jumped to nearly 19,000 as the survivors from the early

years became established and grew. Lancaster, Riley, Rover, Singer, Hillman, Triumph, Standard, Alvis, Carbodies, which still exists as London Taxis International, and Daimler were among the strongest to emerge from the plethora of pioneers.

Tucked in among them was a small motorcycle sidecar company brought down by its founder from his native Blackpool: its name was Swallow and the young man was William Lyons. He moved to Coventry in 1921 to make cars with the SS badge until 1936 when he devised a new name which was to stick and become world-renowned: Jaguar.

It seems astonishing that a city once so full of carmakers should now only be able to field four names on its roll call of motor manufacturers — three of them owned abroad. Rover — the condensed version of companies such as Standard, Triumph, Riley, Austin and Morris among others — was bought by BMW in Germany while Jaguar is owned by Ford in the United States. Peugeot owns what was once the Rootes Group with its Hillman, Singer and Humber badges.

Yet, for all that, Coventry remains a motor city. If James Starley is looking down from his great garage in the sky this weekend, he can rest easy in the knowledge that he and his fellow entrepreneurs might have gone... but they are not forgotten.

STREET-WISE CARMAKERS

IN THE search for its past, Coventry has tried to find original sites of the 132 car factories which populated the city over the past century. Academics pinpointed 45 sites inside the city ring-road and a further two dozen outside. Many of these original buildings still exist today, despite the attentions of the Luftwaffe during the Blitz. A glance at the maps, even with this truncated list of manufacturers and the dates to show when they were in business there, underlines just how convincingly Coventry can lay claim to the title of being Britain's Motor City.

1 The Daimler company, founded in 1896, started manufacturing work in Sandy Lane in a former cotton mill, which was to give the multi-storey factory its famous name of Motor Mills. The company was located there until 1937 but the huge building was razed to rubble during a Second World War air raid; 2 Standard working here from 1903 to 1953; 3 Premier 1912-14; 4 Coronet 1906-10; 5 Riley 1909-18, and 8 where the company had a factory from 1903-08; 7 Crouch 1913-22; 8 Crouch first factory in 1912; 9 Clukey 1922-28; 10 Ridley 1901-07; 11 Clukey 1922-28; 12 Ranger 1913-14; 13 Centaur 1901; 14 Triumph 1903-35; 15 Hamilton 1906-10; 16 Priory 1901-05; 17 Dawson 1919; 18 Coventry Victor 1926-37; 19 Lea-Francis 1937-60; 20 Singer 1902-56; 21 Hillman 1906-07; 22 Premier 1919-23; 23 Humber 1898-1908; 24 Calcutt 1913-26; 25 Hill 1926-30; 26 Alpha 1903-14; 27 Mies no date; 28 Arno 1908; 29 Endurance 1899-1901; 30 Duxton Ward 1908-10; 31 Lea-Francis 1937-60; 32 Hubbard 1906-10; 33 Standard 1903-05; 34 Coventry Motette 1896-1900; 35 Dalton and Wade 1906-10; 36 Rudge 1912-13; 37 Riley 1901-02; 38 Rover 1904-30; 39 Whitley 1906-10; 40 Swift 1898-1931; 41 Hobart 1906-1910; 42 New Beeston/Swift 1898-1931; 43 Maudslay 1902-26; 44 Velox/Idon/Dessy 1902-11; 45 Armstrong Siddeley 1919-1960.

CARMAKERS IN THE SUBURBS

With the city centre bursting with car factories, a batch of companies, mainly destined to failure, were setting up in the roomier suburbs. Only one of these manufacturers — Riley — was to find any real fame, and even that company was eventually swallowed by a larger rival.

Today, all three of Coventry's volume carmakers — Jaguar, Rover and Peugeot — are sited within the city limits, although Coventry is scheduled to lose one more carmaker from its historic roll of motoring names: Rover is moving from its historic Canley site, which once belonged to the Standard Motor Company, to a newly built headquarters at Gaydon in Warwickshire this year.

1 Academy 1906-08; 2 Aircraft 1926-30; 3 Ariel 1922-25; 4 Autavia 1937-38; 5 Atwood 1920; 6 Bayliss Thomas 1926-30; 7 BSA 1937-38; 8 Brooks 1902; 9 Carlton 1901-02; 10 Challenge 1912-15; 11 Climax 1905-07; 12 Condor 1907; 13 Coronet 1904-08; 14 Daley 1928-30; 15 Duryea 1902-08; 16 Forman 1904-06; 17 Glover 1912-13; 18 Lotus 1902-08; 19 Omega 1925-27; 20 Payne & Bates 1900-01; 21 Progress 1898-1903; 22 Record 1905; 23 Riley was founded in 1898 and moved to this site in 1904 where it stayed for 34 years, largely making elegant saloons, until it was bought by Morris and the badge was discontinued in 1969; 24 West Aster 1904-14; 25 Wigan Barlow 1922-23.



The Jaguar production line at Browns Lane in Coventry

AUTOFAX by David Long and Les Evans

COVENTRY'S FIRST CAR FACTORY, OWNED BY DAIMLER, WAS ORIGINALLY A COTTON MILL BUILT TO SERVE THE EMPIRE.

AS EARLY AS 1905, COVENTRY HAD NO FEWER THAN 29 INDIGENOUS CAR MANUFACTURERS.

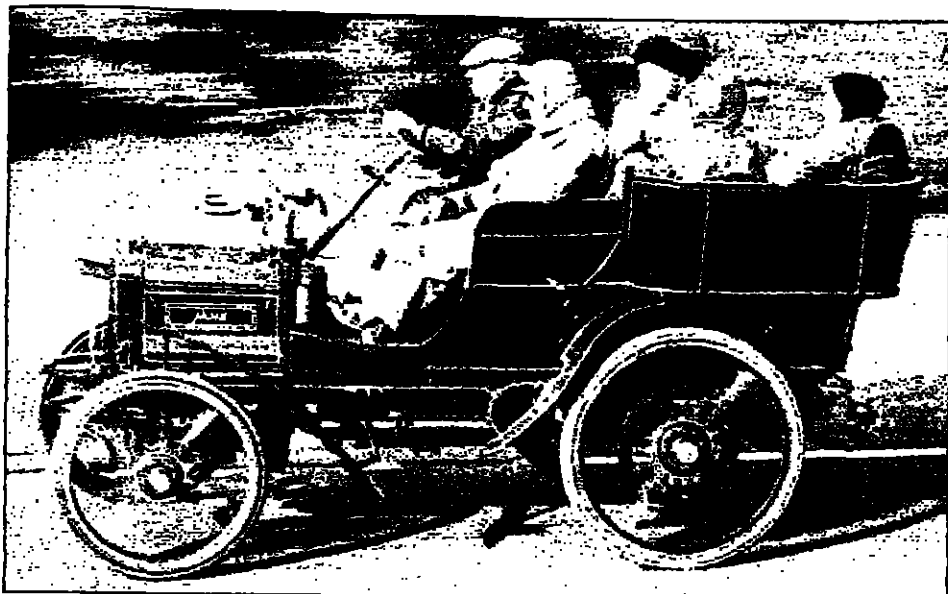
FREDERICK SIMMS, DAIMLER'S FOUNDER AND THE FATHER OF THE BRITISH MOTOR INDUSTRY WAS ACTUALLY BORN IN GERMANY TO AN ITALIAN MOTHER.

THE COVENTRY-BUILT LANCHESTER WAS THE FIRST CAR IN THE WORLD SPECIFICALLY DESIGNED TO USE PNEUMATIC TYRES.



Which is the earliest Coventry car? Tony Dawe reports on the last-minute fight between grand old ladies

Ancients race to lead the parade



An unseemly race developed between two grand old ladies this week to head the parade of historic Coventry cars which launched the Motor in the City celebrations last night.

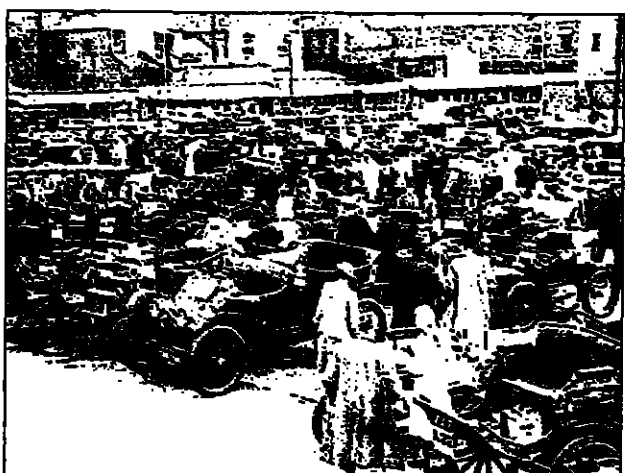
A splendid green Daimler called Jane, bearing the chassis number 1898/1, had claimed first place in the Coventry Collection featuring 140 cars built in the city during the first hundred years of the British motor industry.

Then on Tuesday along came a blue Daimler to demand priority. Peter Golding, who bought the 6hp Wagonette at auction last year, produced evidence that his old lady was also made in 1898 and then argued that Jane had required major surgery after a nasty accident and was not in her original state.

John Horton, organiser of the event for Coventry city council, ruled: "I shall give the number one spot to Peter Golding and then stand back." The friendly rivalry on the eve of the prestigious event emphasised the mounting enthusiasm among owners of historic cars — and their supporters — to claim a place in the centenary parade.

When the city first decided to find examples of as many makes as possible of Coventry-built cars, the response was lukewarm. Five months ago, Car 96 was asked to join the search and the result was astonishing, with letters pouring in from readers who had either owned, seen or remembered rare models.

With their help, the organisers were able to stage a parade which included an Autovia, Calcutt, Cluley and Deasy as well as more familiar Armstrong Siddleys, Hillmans, Singers and Sunbeams. After assembling in Bond Street, the cars set off at 6pm last night around the city



Jane, the 1898 Daimler, top, lost out because its rival had led the 50th anniversary parade in 1946, above. Peter and Ann Golding's Daimler, above right, will therefore take first place again. Other historic cars will include Alan Williams's Autovia, right, one of only 35 built in 1937 and 1938 as a marque to rival Rolls-Royce.

centre and suburbs passing under banners proclaiming "They're coming home".

Peter Thompson from Whiteleaf, Buckinghamshire, had expected to lead the parade in Jane, a Daimler Mini-bus Wagonette. "With a chassis number 1898/1, I assumed that the car had the first chassis laid down in 1898 and was the oldest Coventry car available," he said.

"Arthur Jones, my late father-in-law, was a great car enthusiast and had always wanted to buy a veteran. He was offered Jane in a dilapidated state and the renovation was carried out carefully to keep her as authentic as possible."

"She has a bench-seat in front for the driver and engineer and the 'cart seating' in the back takes up to six people. She has a maximum speed of 20mph, which feels like 200mph."

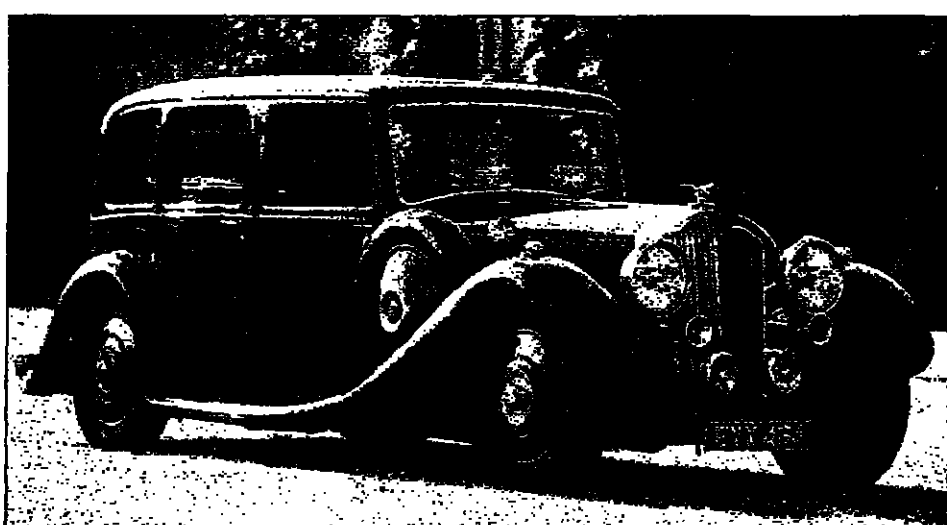
Thompson, a company director in satellite communications, has spent £30,000 on the restoration, but his aspirations

to drive the No 1 car in the Coventry Collection were dented by previous repair work.

His Daimler had been burnt out in 1902 after a previous owner became over-enthusiastic with the hot-tube ignition system. The car was rebuilt by Coventry apprentices under the direction of Matthew Wormald, foreman of the Daimler lifting shop, and then lived a busy but uneventful life until Thompson's family bought it.

In promoting his car's claim, Golding said: "Peter Thompson's car was rebodied, has a later engine than mine and lacks many of the original specifications."

Although his car had been listed as an 1899 Daimler when he bought it, he discovered that the rear axle, produced by the Kirkstall Forge and Steel company of Leeds, had been date-stamped 1898 when it left the factory. He clinched front place in the parade by turning up pictures which showed that the car had been No 1 in a Coventry to



Birmingham rally in 1946 to mark the first 50 years of the British motor industry.

"Most of the body is original and you can still see evidence of the tiller steering which was fitted at first," Golding said. "The hot-tube ignition was, of course, replaced by a carburettor which still ticks over well."

Golding, director of a building supplies company from North London, is a keen collector of classic cars but the Daimler is his first veteran.

Among other late entries for the parade was an Autovia, owned by Alan Williams of North London, and one of only 35 made in 1937 and 1938.

The car was the idea of Victor Riley, who wanted the Riley company to produce a model to rival Rolls-Royce. Two versions were produced with 3-litre V8 engines: a limousine with two spare wheels and a partition behind the driver, and an owner-driver saloon.

"I used to own a Riley 9 but

saw the Autovia advertised in 1967 and decided it was grander, especially as the price was only £100," Williams said. "I got married in it in 1969 and it has become part of the family."

Two of the three rare models highlighted by Car 96 when we first launched the search also took part in the rally: a 1923 Cluley owned by the company founder's grandson and his cousin and the 1928 Lea-Francis Hyper which won the 1928 Ulster TT.

THE ONE THAT GOT AWAY



Rare original advertisement for the Glover Cyclecar

The Glover Cyclecar, made in 1912 and 1913, was one of the missing Coventry cars which the organisers of last night's parade were hoping to find with the help of Car 96 readers. They were unlucky, and it seems that none has survived, according to Hugh Glover of Stoke Park, Coventry, son of the co-founder of the company. "Although I can remember as a small boy riding in one of these vehicles for very many miles, I do not recall seeing one after the early 1920s, and the one I saw was not in use at the time," he says.

"The manufacture of these cars ceased at the commencement of the First World War and was not resumed afterwards, although Glover Brothers continued as a garage until my retirement in 1962."

His father, Hubert, and uncle Harry were chemists by trade before starting to make electrical, mechanical and photographic equipment and then embarking on car production. Their prototype received an enthusiastic review in *The Motor Cycle* of February 8, 1912, which described it as "a novel type of sociable quadricycle; its chief features are absolute simplicity and light weight."

A later review was equally kind, although it did point out that "the Glover cyclecar is a real motorcycle four-wheeler and does not pretend to imitate the big car."

Glover junior, who provided the above advertisement, regrets that photographs of later models have disappeared as quickly as the car because "they would have shown them better equipped with windcreens and hoods."

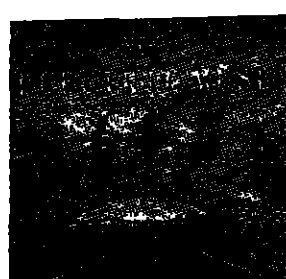
BEAUTIES ON PARADE

IF YOU'VE got it, flaunt it: exactly what Coventry did to start the celebrations of its centenary as Britain's first city of motoring. More than 140 cars made in Coventry lined up last night to parade around the city and demonstrate the rich and varied heritage of 100 years of motor manufacturing.

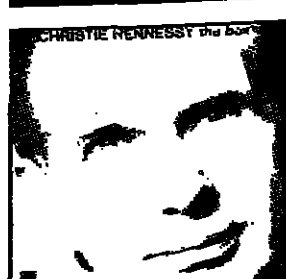
The oldest car on view was the 1898 Daimler 6hp, although enthusiasts would spot 100 years of development in the latest Daimler, the gorgeous Century model produced by Jaguar to celebrate the marque's place as Britain's oldest car-making company. Unlike its pretty, but decidedly un-high-tech ancestor, the Century boasts not only a powerful V12 engine but also little luxuries like air-conditioning. The closest that drivers of a Daimler a century ago got to that particular feature was hoping for a pleasant breeze to get up.

Representing Alvis was a 1937 4.3 model, while a range of Armstrong Siddeleys, from a 1922 20hp to a Sapphire from the Fifties, was also on display. A 1953 Somerset Coupé brought Austin to the party while a rare 1938 Autoville limousine was there. Also along for the centenary parade were a Calcutt 10.5hp; Commer Imp van; a Cluley 10hp coupe; a Deasy Type Model 12. The historic Hillman range was represented by Huskys, a Minx, an Avenger and Imp, while a dozen Jaguars were sandwiched between a 1968 Humber Imperial and a 1994 Le Mans Sport to a 1967 Chamois coupé, took part, as well as several Standard models, including a fine 1926 Charlotte coupé, three Vanguards, a Flying 12 and an Ensign from 1963. Eleven Sunbeams, including Rapiers, Tigers and a Stiletto, five Swifts, a Talbot Solara and 19 Triumphs of all styles and ages, including a 1958 TR3, a Stag from 1976 and a series of TR sports were represented on the historic parade. From the modern era, Peugeot — now the owner of historic titles such as Singer and Hillman — sent in a 309 hatchback that had been made in Coventry in 1989.

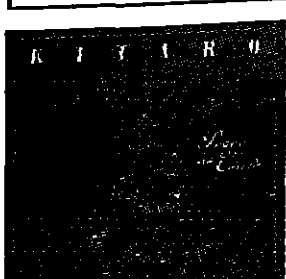
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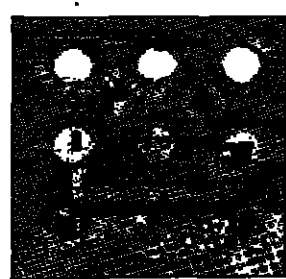
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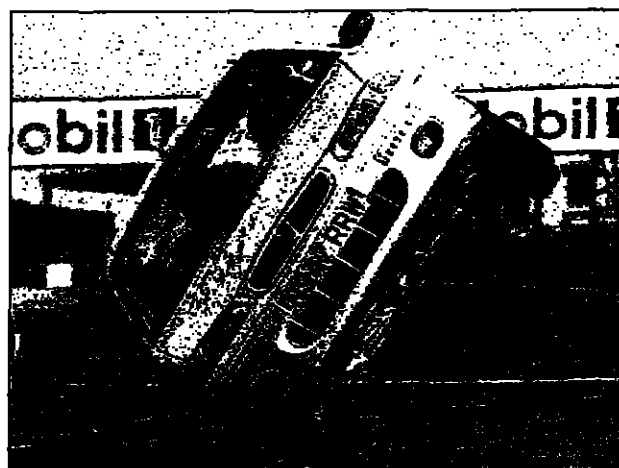
Stunted development

Jennai Cox on the man who can park his car at 40mph — sideways

Russ Swift is the sort of man you need on the busiest day in Sainsbury's car park. No checking for a space with anxious backward glances, reversing then pulling forward to squeeze in between shoppers' cars. Swift hits the spot perfectly at 40mph with a handbrake turn.

He will be showing how parking is really done at the Motor Cycle Museum at Bickenhill, near Birmingham airport from noon today, with other members of the Rover driver display team.

Keen on cars from "way before I could drive", Swift was on the motor sports circuit as soon as he turned 17. "I couldn't really afford it, so I was a navigator for vehicle tests, which is mainly hand-brake turns," he says. "But I got frustrated and thought 'I can do that'."



Two-piece: it took 90 days driving the car on its roof

fourth time in 1981, Swift was asked to do his first demonstration.

"I devised a routine and, with my contacts in the motor sports world, was soon doing it all over the place," he says. By 1985 he had enough work to give up his job as an engineer to "precision-drive" full-time.

The big break came three years later when Rover wanted his remarkable parking skills for their Montego television commercial. Swift's manoeuvre — in which he hit a space virtually the length of the car, almost sideways and at high speed —

won the advert a place at the Carnes Festival and it was voted the world's most imaginative car commercial in the United States.

His routine, which lasts about 30 minutes, includes reverse spins, hand-brake parking and a repeat of the famous Montego stunt. Swift even manages a dance routine for cars and then puts his car on two wheels — a stunt that took three months to perfect.

"It had not been done before, so one winter I decided to go out and master it," he says. "I spent the next 90 days driving a car on to its roof until I got it right."

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Car 96 readers are set to test their proudly kept vehicles on Sunday's Shakespeare run, says Tony Dawe

Look out, it's your Team Thunderer

An intriguing collection of people and cars is set to join the final event of this weekend's celebrations: the Mayflower Coventry Shakespeare run tomorrow.

A husband and wife with his-and-hers Renaults from the start of the century: a father and his three sons who each own post-war Dellow sports cars, and a score of Car 96 readers with their own historic vehicles will line up for the 65-mile round trip from Coventry through Shakespeare country.

A total of 472 vehicles, from a 1899 Century Tandem Forecar to Rover's MGF, will more than adequately represent the first 100 years of the British motor industry. Many of them, Jaguars, Standards and Triumphs, were made in the city, but the run includes many which were built elsewhere — for this is an international tribute to a century of motoring.

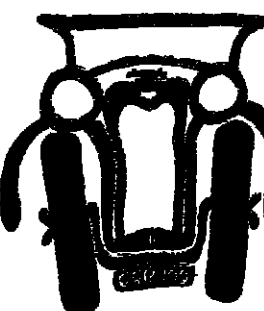
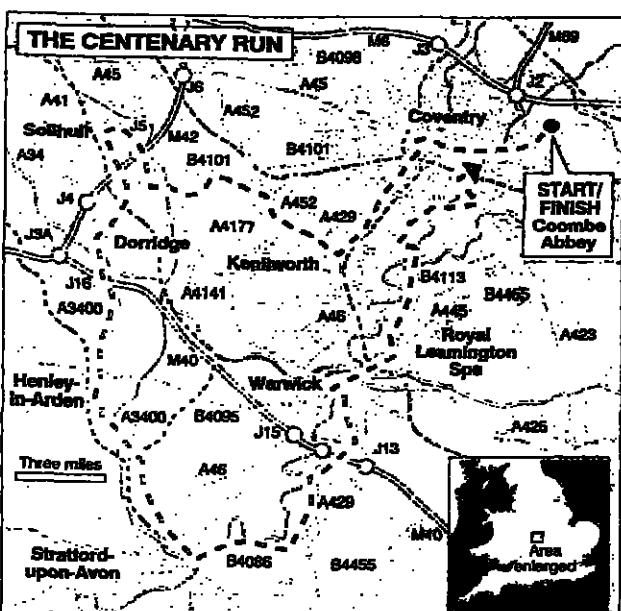
The rally also has a special place for motorbikes and buses, with 18 bikes from seven decades taking part, together with a 1944 Daimler double-decker from Coventry's Museum of British Road Transport and a 1927 Leyland Lioness Charabanc entered by Nick Gresty, a Car 96 reader from Cheshire.

"I feel like a world champion boxer who has been training for months and has now reached the eve of his next big fight," says Martin Hone of International Festival Services, which organises the run.

"Those taking part will drive through a lovely mix of country villages, historic towns and beautiful countryside and will be waved on by an enthusiastic crowd.

"In previous years we have welcomed celebrities from motor racing and showbusiness including Sir Jack Brabham, Stirling Moss and Barbara Windsor, but in this century year we have decided that the cars themselves should be the celebrities."

Close behind the Century Forecar, as the cavalcade leaves Coombe Abbey country park at 10am tomorrow, will be the husband-and-wife team of Hazel and George Hughes, dressed in period costume,



with Hazel at the wheel of a 1909 Renault AX and George driving a 1910 Renault 8 Tourer.

They will be followed by six Daimlers of various vintages from the Road Transport Museum, one of them carrying Derek and Dorothy Thomas of Sheffield, winners of a Car 96 competition for a VIP weekend at Motor in the City.

"The Times Twenty", owned by Car 96 readers, will carry numbers 165 to 184 and range from a 1926 Rolls-Royce to a 1990 Jaguar XKSS replica. Readers eager to take part in this oversubscribed event were

asked to justify a place, and the winners came up with some entertaining tales.

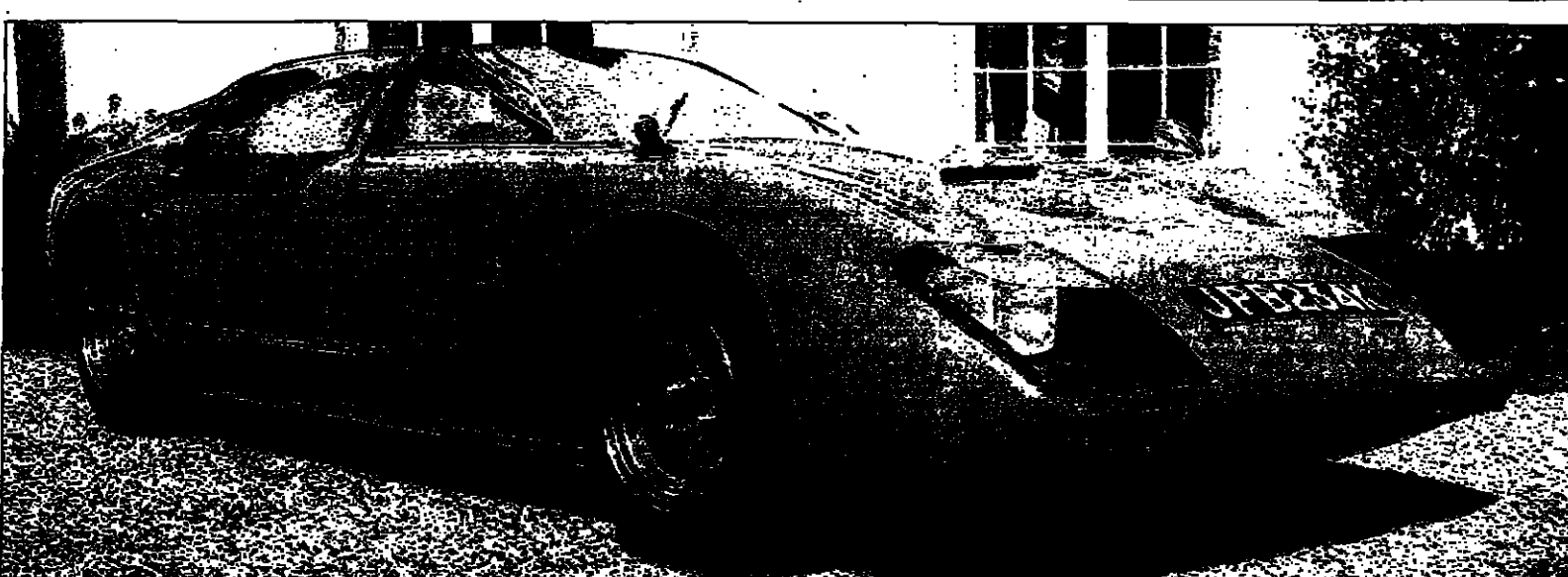
Graham Mellish of Stockport, Cheshire, the proud owner of a beautifully restored 1929 Talbot 14/45, says: "The car looked so forlorn and sorry for itself when I first saw it nine years ago in an unlit garage that I just had to buy it to put it out of its misery."

"It had been off the road since 1946 but I was able to turn the engine over by hand so knew it had not seized and the car had all the right pieces on it. My daughter said I had bought 'an old shed' and I nearly called it that until my wife decided that Bess would be a more suitable name for such a grand old lady."

Mellish, a retired engineer, has restored the Talbot sympathetically, reboring the 14hp engine and patching up the fabric body where necessary. He pronounced it "in good running order" after a 120-mile trip last weekend in readiness for tomorrow.

Of similar vintage, but on a smaller scale, is the Austin Seven owned by Tony Clippstone of Northamptonshire. It earned a place because it is one of a limited number made with a part-metal, part-fabric body as Austin moved from traditional coachbuilding.

"You won't find many like this," Clippstone says. "Occa-



Readers' entries: top, Graham Mellish's 1929 Talbot 14/45; Peter Jennings's Piper P2, and the 1934 Rolls-Royce 20/25 of Aubrey Biddiscombe



sionally, drips of rain come through the fabric but the car itself behaves positively, cruises at 40mph and does about 3,500 miles a year on pleasure trips and car rallies."

Clippstone admits to being "a bit of a Seven nut", and enjoys taking the car to pieces, something he cannot do with his everyday car, a Ford Mondeo.

One of the oldest entrants on the run will be Aubrey Biddiscombe, a Car 96 reader from Somerset who owns a 1934 Rolls-Royce 20/25. "I have always loved cars of this period and class," he says. "I was 18 when this one was made and I was delighted when I found it in a garage near Plymouth 25 years ago."

"It is the only Rolls-Royce with this bodywork. The car was bought by a Dutchman who wanted a Rolls with a body like the French Voisin model and found a Dutch firm to convert it."

In contrast to these vintage cars is the sleek red Piper P2 sports car owned by Peter Jennings of High Wycombe. It is one of only 160 models made between 1965 and 1974. The Piper was born at Campbell's Garage, Hayes, Kent, where the owner, George Henrotte, a

former racing driver, decided to build himself a small racer. The garage logo was a Scottish piper, which gave the car its name. Henrotte teamed up with Bob Gaylor and the company moved to Ashford before it fell victim to the mid-1970s recession. Surviving models are looked after by Piper Developments of Norfolk.

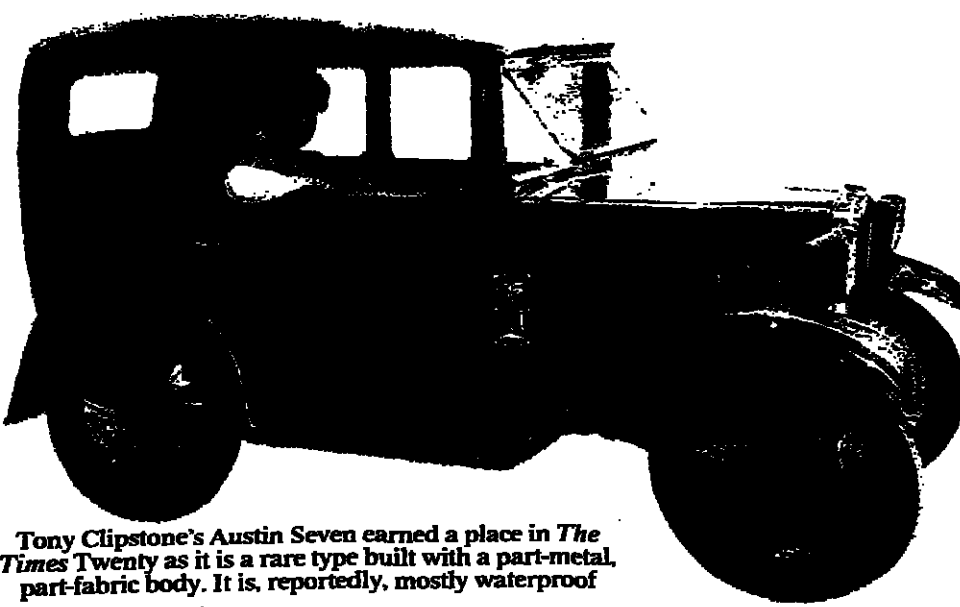
"I have always been a sports car enthusiast and owned some 1940s MGs before family commitments started eating up the money," Jennings says. "I wanted to get back into classic cars and acquired this one in 1989 from a friend who had stored it in a barn in Falmouth. I drove it

for three years as it was before repairs became essential and a body-off restoration was carried out."

"The Times Twenty" will be followed closely by four cars owned by the Parker family from the West Midlands. David Parker bought a Mark 1 Dellow sports car to celebrate the birth of his first son, Russell, and promised to give it to him on his 21st birthday. Two more sons, Rod and Thomas, were given Mark 2 and Mark 3 Dellos.

David himself will be taking a 1928 Rolls-Royce Sedan de Ville on its first run following a rebuild, typifying the enthusiasm for classic cars of so many of those taking part.

1931 Morgan 2 speed standard	Clive Peacock, Kenilworth, Warwick
1926 Talbot 14/45	Graham Mellish, Stockport, Lancs
1926 Citroen B-14	Prof J Warwick Montgomery, Luton, Beds
1971 Piper P2	Peter Jennings, High Wycombe, Bucks
1933 Frazer Nash TT Replica	Giles Stewart-Felding, Leics
1964 Triumph TR4	Graham Beaby, Rugby, Warwick
1967 Jaguar Series 1 E-Type Roadster	Malcolm Ingram, Bristol
1968 TVR S2	Paul Gallahan-Todd, Jersey
1930 Austin P8 Fabric-Bodied Seven Saloon	Tony Clippstone, Northants
1927 Leyland Lioness Charabanc	Nick Gresty, Cheshire
1926 Rolls-Royce Phantom 1	Michael Kent, East Sussex
1948 Rover 10	Mrs Caroline Willets, Kidderminster, Worcs
1930 9hp Riley Tourer	Michael Baker, Redonshire
1926 Austin Heavy 12 5-seat tourer	Peter Maddox, Wolverhampton
1988 Mini E1 Mouse diesel-powered tricycle	Harold E Marlett, Essex
1950s Replica Jaguar XKSS	Geoff Harris, Rugby, Warwick
1979 Triumph TR6 Coupé	Henry J Scrope, Wantage, Oxon
1934 Rolls-Royce 20/25 hp	Paul Adkin, Coventry
1972 Peugeot 504T1	A H Biddiscombe, Somerset
	G Mulder, London



Lights, cameras and traction

A feast of motoring movies and simulators awaits the Coventry visitor

Coventry's celebrations of a hundred years of the British motor industry are not just confined to the roads. In addition to the Coventry Collection parade, the driving skills challenge and the Shakespeare run, Motor in the City includes a film festival, a funfair, museum events and the chance to try out driving-simulators, writes Tony Dawe.

Most of the off-road events can be found in the city centre, which is adorned with banners proclaiming "They're coming home," in recognition of the return to the city for the celebrations of so many historic Coventry-made cars.

The Odeon cinema in Jordan Well is featuring four well-loved motoring movies in its Motor 100 film season, starting with that family favourite *Chitty Chitty Bang Bang* at 10.15 this morning. The choice is appropriate, for the car which starred alongside Dick Van Dyke in the musical about an inventor and his magic motor has appeared in a previous Coventry Shakespeare run.

Two films will play tomorrow afternoon: *Days of Thunder*, a stock-car racing picture with Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman and *Planes, Trains and Automobiles* starring Steve Martin and John Candy as two strangers who hire a car for a cross-country journey home after a blizzard has stopped air and rail services.

On Tuesday at lunchtime, there will be the chance to see again the best and most famous veteran car film, *Genevieve* starring Kenneth More and Kay Kendall, John Gregson and Dinah Sheridan as two couples who decide to race each other home after taking part in the London to Brighton run.

The Odeon is offering a two-for-one deal during the festival, enabling everyone purchasing a ticket for any of the films to claim another of equal value for free.

A short walk from the cinema in Market Way, a funfair will be

operating today for children, with a Pirelli Rally Simulator parked nearby. The simulator is an exact replica of the turbo-charged Subaru Impreza 555 which Scotland's Colin McRae drove to victory in the 1994 Network Q RAC Rally.

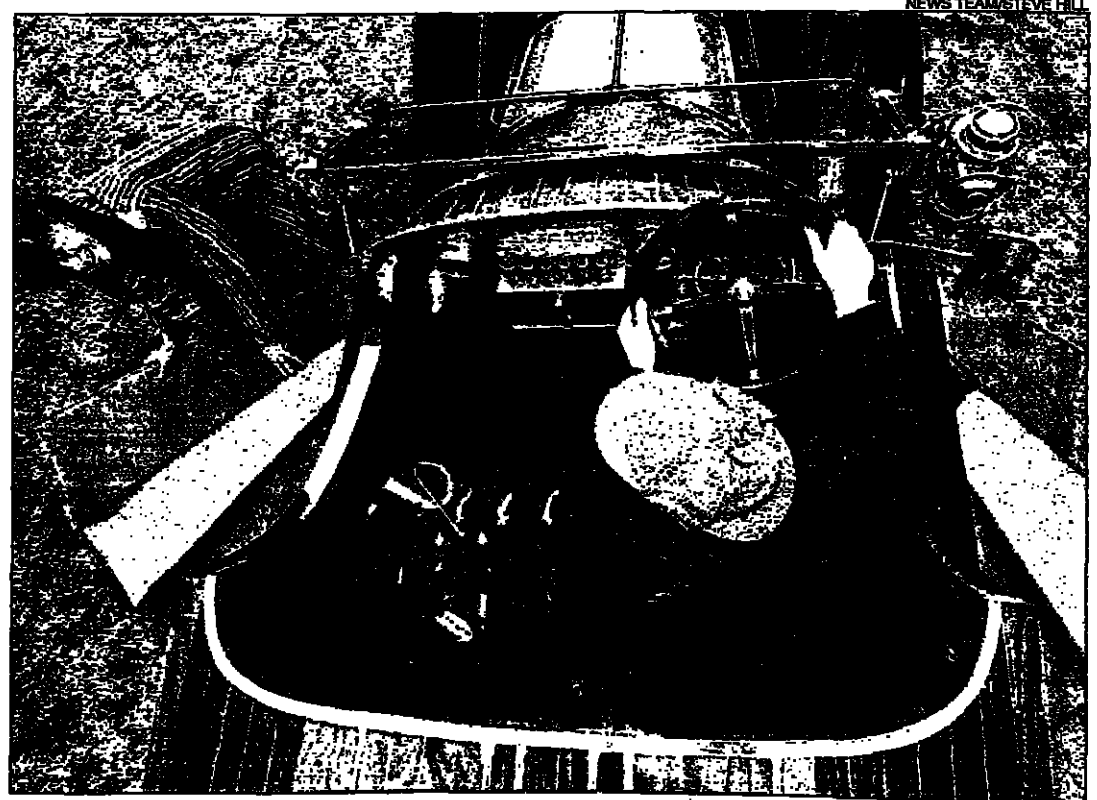
The simulator, which is fitted with a computerised rally driving game, recreates motorsport driving in a variety of conditions from desert, snow and ice to mud and rain and drivers can steer, brake and accelerate.

More simulators will be found today in the West Midlands shopping centre where four SEGA machines will be linked, enabling drivers to compete against each other on a number of computerised race tracks. The centre will also feature a Scalextric track which is an exact replica of the Silverstone Grand Prix circuit.

Young drivers will also be able to test their skills and knowledge of the Highway Code on a realistic pedal-car circuit laid out in the Museum of British Road Transport in St Agnes Lane, Hales Street. The museum, which boasts the largest collection of British-made vehicles in the world, will be open from 10am to 5pm throughout Motor in the City.

Opening specially on Saturday for Car 96 readers will be the Jaguar-Daimler Heritage Trust museum at the Jaguar plant in Browns Lane, Alseley. Present this paper between noon and 4pm and you will be welcome to enjoy videos, guided tours, tea, coffee and biscuits for free.

Both museums will be slightly below strength as they are providing models for tomorrow's Shakespeare run. Six Daimlers, ranging from a 1905 model to a 1978 limousine, are being sent by the Road Transport Museum, including models which belonged to Queen Mary and King George VI. Jaguar is providing a display of 20 models, including a 1950 XK120.



The four-wheeled star of Chitty Chitty Bang Bang has already appeared in the Shakespeare run

Tony Dawe sees our motoring past come alive at the city's special museum

Take a drive along memory street

Anyone who feels dizzy after watching the collection of famous Coventry cars bustle through the city last night or is overwhelmed at the thought of 472 historic vehicles on the move tomorrow can find many of them stationary and easier to appreciate in Coventry's prestige museum.

As befits a city which has been one of the world's most significant centres of car manufacture, its Museum of British Road Transport contains the largest display of British-made vehicles in the world. With its £15 million collection of more than 150 cars, 75 motorcycles and 200 cycles, the museum tells the fascinating story of Coventry's contribution to Britain's road transport history through the famous marques of Alvis, Daimler, Hillman, Humber, Jaguar, Riley, Rover, Standard, Triumph and many more.

Although the cars are stationary, the displays are certainly not static. As visitors enter the museum, they find themselves back in Broadgate in the city centre in 1900.

Coventry's main thoroughfare is busy as people look in the shop windows for the latest bargains and the cobbled streets ring with the sound of horses' hooves. Then comes the sound of an engine. Cyclists dismount, horses snort fearfully as a new-fangled horseless carriage speeds noisily along the bumpy street.

Moving onto the Edwardian era, visitors see the large expensive cars of the time parked outside a local hotel with the motormen waiting to crank the car engines back into life when the wealthy owners return from lunch.

More of these "Memory Lanes",



A series of tableaux recreates city street life in important eras

as the museum describes them, capture the mood of the Twenties and Thirties. A salesman tries to sell three of the cars on display: a 1925 Lea-Francis, a bullnose Morris and a second-hand Rover Doctor's Coupé. The next display shows how Royalty rode in style, and features Queen Mary's Daimler Limousine and King George VI's state Laundrette. These will be missing tomorrow, however, when they

take part in the Coventry Shakespeare run.

No history of Coventry can forget the air raids which destroyed much of the city in 1940 and 1941. The Blitz experience display also tells how the car factories turned to making armaments, military vehicles and aircraft and how large "shadow factories" were built on the outskirts of the city to support the war effort. In the years after the

war, these massive plants heralded the way forward in terms of modern manufacturing facilities in the motor industry.

Moving upstairs, visitors pass into a happier world, reflecting the glory years of car manufacture. An early Alvis 10/30 from 1920 stands beside a splendid 1965 Alvis TE21 saloon; a 1904 Riley Tricar contrasts with the company's sleek 1935 Kestrel while a 1906 Rover 6hp looks decidedly less stylish than the beautifully curved Rover 75.

The largest display area on the first floor contains many readers' first or former cars, courtesy of the Rootes group which produced such enduring post-war models as the Hillman Minx, Humber Hawk, and Singer Gazelle.

Back at ground level, famous Jaguars and Daimlers gleam alongside more everyday models like the Standard Vanguard and Triumph Herald. There is a place too for some of the lesser-known models which have rekindled memories for older Car 96 readers in past months, including a 1901 Goddard, 1912 Crouch, Carrette and 1921 Calson Colibri.

Further displays trace the progress of the bicycle. Britain's cycle industry was born in Coventry in 1888 when the Coventry Sewing Machine company changed its articles of association to enable it to build the French-designed Velocipede. By the mid-1880s Coventry was known as the "cycle capital of the world".

When motorbikes became the fashion, legendary names such as Triumph, Rudge and Norton put Britain in the forefront of production.

The museum's main exhibition hall contains buses, fire engines and lorries from throughout the century, and recalls Daimler's prominence in producing passenger transport vehicles and Rootes's diversification into manufacturing Commer lorries.

Today Coventry's motor industry might operate on a much reduced scale, with Jaguar and Peugeot making influential contributions, but the museum's displays make clear that the history of British road transport owes much to the city's pioneers and a succession of brilliant engineers and entrepreneurs.

● **Museum of British Road Transport, St Agnes Lane, Hales Street, Coventry, open daily 10am to 5pm. Tel: 01203 832425.**



Beaulieu's autojumble sellers know a great deal about their wares, but bargains can still be found

Car boots for sale

Lord Montagu of Beaulieu is set for his annual autojumble — Britain's biggest

truly cosmopolitan. A great many from the Continent, and they are big spenders: recently one man spent \$100,000. There is a large contingent from America and Australia. Because of this internationalism, we introduced a bureau de change.

The autojumble is for all types of road transport. Cars predominate, although 20 per cent of the event is devoted to motorcycle items. Nowadays, most vendors are very knowledgeable, but even so, bargains can be found. A Bugatti side-light, worth hundreds of pounds, could be in a box of assorted lights, marked "ES each". Collecting petrol sales ephemera is catching on fast; petrol pumps,

pump globes, two-gallon cans and enamel advertising signs of petrol companies long gone out of business or absorbed.

It is not just the heavy metal brigade who are there. A large amount of dealing in specialist books, literature, mascots and accessories takes place.

The autojumble has spawned a huge back-up industry of firms making reproduction parts or specialising in the repair of broken items. If you wish your speedometer or dashboard clock repaired, or a rebuild for the radiator of your De Dion Bouton, you will find two or three firms willing to do it.

"Automart", another word we coined, is where complete and running vehicles are offered for sale, and this year we expect 150. Christie's provide us with an auction of motor ephemera and vehicles, usually featuring a number of "barn finds" — cars which have been stored away for many years.

If you miss this weekend's Coventry celebrations, then the autojumble next weekend is a celebration of a different kind. National Motor Museum, Beaulieu, Hampshire. 01540 612445.

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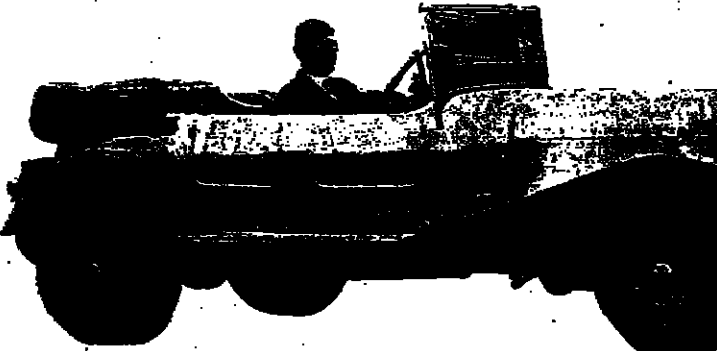
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Hard days in the life of Riley

Ian Morton on the tale of a rare type from a Midland carmaker's heyday that survived being a test hack and racer



The Redwing started its days as a demonstrator, left, with works driver Vic Wallsgrove at the wheel. It spent decades with a souped-up engine, but now leads a quieter, semi-retired life

It was one of the finest slogans to come out of Coventry in the great days of car-making: "As old as the industry, as modern as the hour," and it belonged to a firm which made products that most experts consider to have been truly outstanding.

Between the wars, the Riley name was one of the most respected among the firms whose early toil had helped to found the British motor industry. Respectful purists prefer to forget its sad end, submerged beneath the designs of other makes and finally drowned in 1969 by BMC badge engineering.

They recall instead a racing heritage that includes three outright victories in the Tourist Trophy, three successive wins in the Brooklands 500-mile race, an extraordinary 1934 Le Mans, when Rileys took 2nd, 3rd, 5th, 6th, 12th and 13th, and sundry other track triumphs. And they remember the cars, commercially among the most successful of the Coventry sporting marques because Riley built its own chassis, engines and gearboxes, and went racing with tuned versions of production models so that it could rightly claim that it raced what it sold and sold what it raced.

They remember cars like the Redwing, few of which survive. Of the four-seaters, there are perhaps four left in the world. HP 9679 is one of the toughest, and a remarkable testimony to the quality of machine that came out

of Midlands workshops seven decades ago.

One thing is certain. HP 9679 never led an over-protected life. It was built in 1924 and spent its first year as the Riley works demonstrator, one of its outings being described in *The Motor* of December 9 that year. It was taken into the Cotswolds where a hilly and rain-sodden route never offered the opportunity to test the 70mph maximum speed "guarantee" by the manufacturer, though averages of around 40mph and 24mpg were returned despite the adverse conditions.

The test driver, editor Hubert Keogh, was sufficiently impressed to buy the very car himself. He was to keep it for a lifetime.

After using it as everyday transport, he modified the engine extensively and campaigned it in MCC trials. In its early years it won 14 gold medals and several silvers, a Brooklands reliability award and eight Riley Service Challenge Cups. As early as 1932, Keogh reported that it had "covered 108,000 miles and has never once failed me".

Stored during the war, HP 9679 passed in 1960 to Keogh's son Pat, who performed a chassis-up restoration over five years, producing a machine which *Light Car Magazine* testers found to be the quickest in its category. Pat record-

ed his own feelings about the car — "best described as a baby Bentley, as it resembles the 3-litre, though it is more delicate in appearance".

By the time Pat sold it in 1981, the car had covered around 200,000 miles. Its present owner is the enthusiast who bought it at that time, and he has put on a further 8,000 to 10,000 miles. "Engine, gearbox, front and rear axles, polished aluminium bodywork and instruments are all original and everything works perfectly," says Dr Roger Andrews. "Mind you, I had the clock cleaned and rebuilt..."

Like most vintage car owners, he tends to discount the hours of loving care that he puts into routine checks

and maintenance most weeks, not only on the Redwing but also on a fabric-bodied Riley Nine of 1929 which he also runs regularly, though daily transport is a Vauxhall Astra estate and the family also uses a motor-home.

"Why Rileys? I passed my test in my father's Riley Nine when I was 18 and then had a succession of seven Rolls-Royces from the 1926-34 period because you could buy them for £60 to £120, but then I went to a VSCC meeting at Silverstone and saw Rileys racing. I bought and raced a Special and have had Rileys ever since."

The Redwing's outings these days total about 500 miles a year and are usually confined to Riley Register and Vintage Sports Car Club rallies, shows and trials. Dr Andrews is usually accompanied enthusiastically by his wife Helen. Now retired as a GP, he often acts as medical officer at these meetings and has officiated at more than 100.

The car is also available for weddings in the area of his home in Highworth, Wiltshire, on payment of a donation to the Swindon Therapy Centre. The car cost £495 in 1924, and is probably worth £30,000 today.

"Speeds up to 70 mph in this sort of car are really quite exciting," he says,

"The car has rear wheel brakes only, and while the wheels will easily lock in the dry on both footbrake and handbrake, the car simply will not stop quickly in the wet. I would only take the Redwing for its MOT on a dry day..."

Because the Keogh tuning made the car bad-tempered and unresponsive at low engine speeds he has taken the engine back to its factory level of tune, and today it accords more closely with the description in a Redwing advert of the time.

This quoted an owner describing it as, "A lithe, low-hung sports that responds to every whim, now drifting with the breeze, then racing with the gale. A car for unbounded youth and red-blooded man, perhaps old in years but young in heart. Speed greater than many men dare to use, comfort to the ultimate degree. Smooth travel on every road. An open car under the deep blue sky. A perfect closed car when low grey skies hurl rain against the unresisting side screens, lightly operated hood and handsome vee-screen. Fashioned by craftsmen to whom time has no measure in their attempt to achieve perfection. The sports car you have imagined but never hoped to own, the car you have long waited for, the kind of car that only Riley builds..."

If, as the enthusiasts like to say, they don't build cars like they used to, they don't write the advertising copy to go with them either. Nor the slogans.

Driving of a different kind

Alan Copps on a new event where motoring meets golf



ONE OF the biggest events to mark the centenary of the British motor industry takes place next month just before the motor show, at the Warwickshire Golf Club at Leek Wootton.

The Motor City Seniors Classic is expected to attract a field that includes some of golfing's great names, giving enthusiasts in Britain a rare chance to see the likes of Tony Jacklin, Brian Barnes, Brian Huggett and Tommy Horton in action. It is part of the Professional Golf Association's European Seniors Tour, open to players over 50 and one of the fastest-growing events in sport.

The 54-hole Warwickshire event on October 4-6 will be preceded by a pro-am competition for companies associated with the motor industry, and an open challenge for players from the 24 golf clubs in the Coventry area.

The event is to become an annual round on the PGA Seniors Tour and offers £80,000 prize money. Other players invited include Hugh Baiocchi, who scored seven victories on the PGA European tour, Vicente Fernandez, English Open winner in 1992, John Fourie, who won the Senior British Open in 1992, Bernard Hunt, Christy O'Connor and many other ex-Ryder Cup stars.

The Warwickshire course is regarded as one of the country's most challenging, and the holes to be used for the competition have been selected to ensure that spectators have the best opportunity to see the skills on display.

Tommy Horton, who chalked up victories on both the PGA European and Seniors Tour, said: "Golfing events have gained worldwide support from the motor car and now the sport has the chance to pay tribute and recognise the industry's achievements."

The motor industry has a long history of sponsoring major golf events, and this competition is being supported by Peugeot, Michelin, the Motor Car Centenary — which is also supporting this weekend's events — the Museum of British Road Transport and *The Times*.

It is planned as a family event and, in addition to some impressive golf, there will be a series of exhibits on the history of the car. A royalty from gate-receipts will go to Ben, the Motor and Allied Trade Benevolent Fund, the charity which offers help to those involved in the industry.

Ben was established in 1905 and is celebrating its 90th anniversary at the same time as the motor centenary. It is currently providing advice, support and financial help to more than 5,000 people who may have suffered through disability, poverty or bereavement. It operates four nursing and residential centres, the newest, Town Thorns, stands between Coventry and Rugby.

For further information, telephone 0171-637 2291 or write to the Motor City Seniors Classic, 77-78 Bolsover Street, London W1P 7HH.

F1 Fantasy Drive update



TOTAL POINTS AFTER THE BELGIAN GP

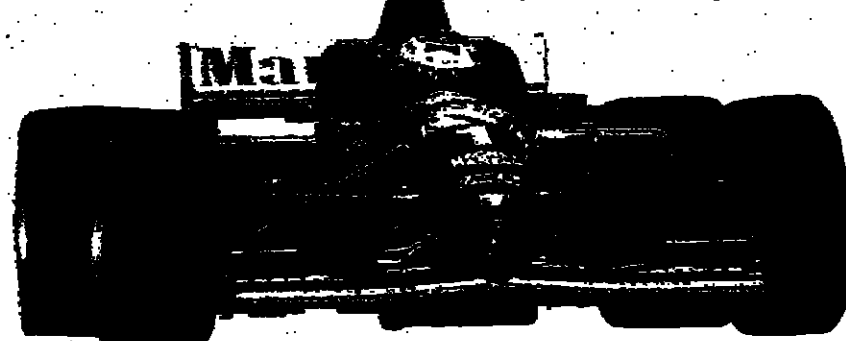
	Last race points	Total Fantasy points
Group A		
01 M Schumacher	88	881
02 J Alesi	84	1086
03 D Hill	79	1069
Group B		
04 G Berger	75	890
05 E Irvine	41	625
06 J Villeneuve	83	1148
Group C		
07 D Coulthard	54	925
08 M Hakkinen	86	1077
09 HH Frenzen	10	769
Group D		
10 M Brundle	47	760
11 R Barrichello	40	935
12 J Herbert	9	745
Group E		
13 M Salo	84	752
14 P Lamy	83	702
15 P Diniz	28	677
Group F		
116 U Katayama	88	518
17 J Verstappen	16	446
18 O Panis	7	860
Group G		
19 G Fisichella	0	377
20 R Rosset	85	612
Group H		
21 L Badoer	0	365
22 A Montemini	0	167

*Replaces T Marques

Below we print the results of last week's Grand Prix in Belgium, plus the cumulative points in each category for the ten races in our fantasy game so far. Remember, the Australian Grand Prix does not count towards our point scoring system. Also today we print the latest positions at the top of our leaderboard in the race for our £10,000 jackpot which shows the position, number of points to date, team name, and the name of

the fantasy team manager. The table shows a clear leader with 6,876 points.

Our 12th race winner for the performance of his team in the Belgian Grand Prix is Mr M Essex from Brookmans Park, Hatfield, whose team, Gobian's Racing, scored 561 points. He wins a trip for two to the Portuguese Grand Prix on September 22. He was selected at random from two team managers who scored 561 points.



Qualifying points are scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid: J Villeneuve 20 points; D Hill 19; M Schumacher 18; D Coulthard 17; G Berger 16; M Hakkinen 15; J Alesi 14; M Brundle 13; E Irvine 12; R Barrichello 11; HH Frenzen 10; J Herbert 9; M Salo 8; O Panis 7; P Diniz 6; J Verstappen 5; U Katayama 4; R Rosset 3; P Lamy 2.

Finishing points are scored by the top 20 drivers at the end of every grand prix: M Schumacher 20 points; J Villeneuve 19; M Hakkinen 18; J Alesi 17; D Hill 16; G Berger 15; M Salo 14; U Katayama 13; R Rosset 12; P Lamy 11. (only ten finished)

Lap points one point for each lap completed:

M Schumacher 44 points; J Villeneuve 44; M Hakkinen 44; J Alesi 44; D Hill 44; G Berger 44; M Salo 44; U Katayama 44; R Rosset 43; P Lamy 43; D Coulthard 37; M Brundle 34; E Irvine 29; R Barrichello 29; P Diniz 22; J Verstappen 11.

Improved position profits three points for each place improved from starting grid to finishing position:

P Lamy 27 points; U Katayama 27; R Rosset 27; M Salo 18; J Alesi 9; M Hakkinen 9; M Schumacher 6.

01 6,876	Locust	C Dare
02 6,866	J Hunt U	J Hunt
03 6,835	The Great 8	M Neethan
03 6,835	RKV16	D Rokov
03 6,835	Cowgirls Racing	R Wheeler
03 6,835	Rickle's Teivers	J Richardson
03 6,835	The Simpletons	M Sim
03 6,835	Dream Team 8	D Springate
03 6,835	Scab Car	R Howells
03 6,835	Phoney	D Park
03 6,835	Chicken Roosters	S Maurice
03 6,835	Boy Racer	J Moore

CHECK YOUR SCORE

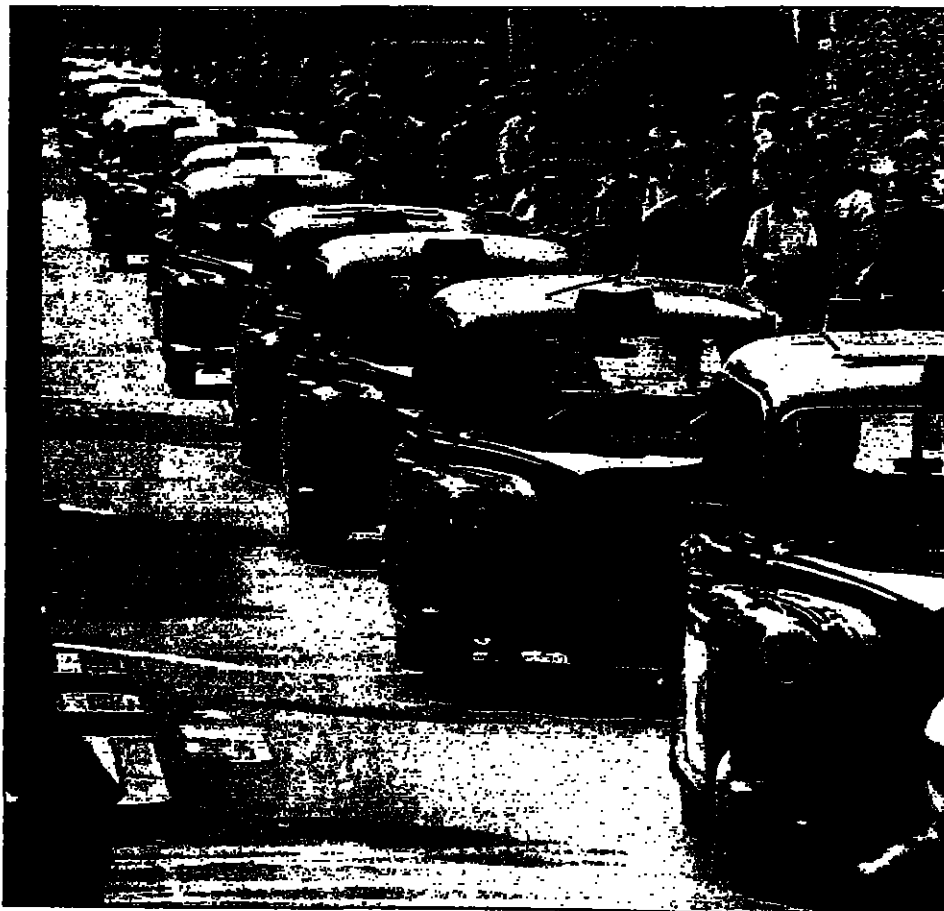
Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the hotline number below (Republic of Ireland readers should call 004 499 020 0501). Remember to have your 10-digit PIN number handy when you call. The line currently carries all positions after the Belgian Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday September 11 after the Italian Grand Prix.

CALL THE 24-HOUR

CHECKLINE 0891-774 734

Hail Coventry's star cab

Steve Thomas Emberson on our largest home-owned manufacturer



Black cabs are as big a part of London as the Thames, but much has been changed

One Coventry carmaker still going strong can justifiably claim to be the largest British-owned company still in the business. Its name is not as famous as Jaguar or Daimler, now part of the Ford multinational empire, nor Peugeot, the remaining maker of small cars in the city. But its main product is one of the best-known symbols of Britain.

Carbodies, which between the wars was one of the country's top-ranking coach-builders, still works from a site in Holyhead Road, opposite where Alvis, another of Coventry's great names, built cars up until 1967. But it is now known as London Taxis International and its chief product, the black cab, is as much a part of London as the Houses of Parliament.

Last year the company sold 2,465 black cabs, an increase of 17 per cent over the previous year. More than 80 per cent of all the purpose-built taxis used in Britain are built in Coventry.

The most familiar design is still cloaked in a body shape introduced in 1959. But beneath it, development and technical innovations have been going on almost in secret. As one cabbie remarked "people tend to think that the black cab hasn't changed in over 35 years, but it is different in every way from the first FX4 produced in 1959".

The black cab has closely tracked society's ever-changing urban transport needs, and now also caters for a burgeoning demand from hospitals, social services, nursing homes and special schools.

The 1960s and 1970s established the Austin-badged FX4 model as the ubiquitous form of transport for those who hurry around the city. But in 1989, London Taxis International, which had by this time amalgamated with Carbodies Ltd, launched the first of the Fairway range which, apart

from dramatic changes to the interior, had a new Nissan 2.7-litre diesel engine.

The engine is now revered by taxi drivers, and the interior received what Sir Terence Conran would call "purpose by design": the doors were widened to allow wheelchair access and allow more manoeuvrability within the cab space. With this went a redesign of the rear seat, enabling the capacity to be extended to four people plus a wheelchair occupant.

Then, working closely with cab drivers, the public and disabled groups, LTI began more innovations — the meter was clocked up change after change. A swivel seat and lower step were installed, giving people with mobility problems ease of access and departure. What most people think of as nice cosmetic touches of red in this updated interior are aids for the partially sighted.

There are now red high-lights on seat edges, door sills,

grab handles, seatbelts and passenger instruction notices. The shape of the cab itself is a help to partially sighted people, as it is so easy to recognise on a congested street.

With all these developments, it is hardly surprising that the cab has driven out of London and into the towns and shires of Britain; to Manchester, Birmingham, Leicester and Oxford, and many more drivers are switching to the purpose-built taxi as an essential component of a socially responsible transport system.

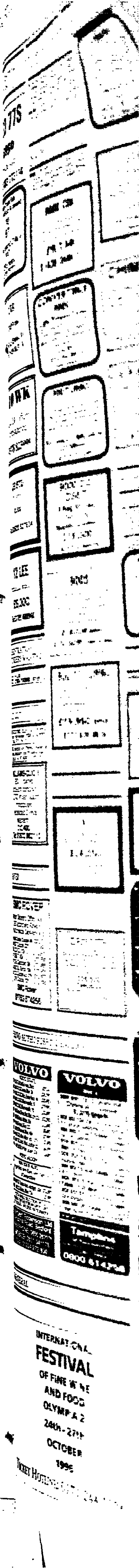
When Steven Norris, then Minister for Local Transport, announced the Government's strategy for the 21st century for taxis, he said: "In the famous black cab we have what is probably the best wheelchair-accessible taxi in the world."

Exports are thriving, too: the cab was last year accepted for taxi use by the German authorities. Sixty, worth £12

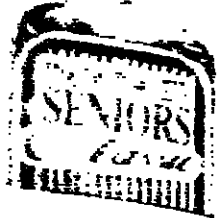
million, were sold to Taiwan and orders have also come from France, Brazil, Romania, Norway and Switzerland. As Updesh Ramnath, LTI's director of overseas operations says, "The drivers are particularly interested in the disabled features and, with rising levels of crime in Europe, the taxi's unique sealed partition, separating driver from passengers, is a major attraction."

The factory has now produced over 75,000 taxis since the first FX4 went into service.

The final comment must go to Gilbert Wise, a veteran cab passenger from New York who, mourning the demise of their old-style Checker cab, said, "The London Cabs are well designed and commodious, with ample leg-room. The cab driver is always well-dressed: shirt, tie and pressed pants, they are knowledgeable, courteous and considerate and may even turn off the meter if the taxi is caught in traffic. Being driven in one was a pleasure."



Driving of a different kind
Alan Copp...



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NEWS TEAM/ROLAND LEON



Richard Parham's favourite is, predictably, his Peugeot 605. But in a fantasy car, speed would be the prerequisite

Careering down the middle of the road

STEERING COLUMN

Jennai Cox asks the boss of Peugeot, Richard Parham, about his careful driving habits

Once you are in the car industry you do not want to work in any other, according to Richard Parham, managing director of Peugeot Motor Company. After joining Ford in 1965 as a financial analyst he moved to Chrysler and stayed when it was taken over by Peugeot in 1989. On his thirtieth anniversary in the motor industry, Parham was made managing director. He has "never been mad about cars" but says the industry is "fascinating, fast-moving and very modern now."

How did you first learn to drive?

My brother-in-law took me out in an old Ford and I was taught in a Volkswagen Beetle. I passed my test first time at 18 and remember my instructor quizzing me about what the examiner had said about my driving. I think he wanted a

tip after getting me through first time, but there was no chance of that.

What was your first car?

A 1955 Wolseley 4/44, a lovely limousine which I bought at 21 from my future father-in-law when he was looking for something smaller. It had leather upholstery and bench seats. They were used as police cars and you saw them in lots of black-and-white films. I still remember the number plate, OYW 828. I had it for two-and-a-half years and had loads of fun with it, but roads were much quieter then.

What car do you drive now?

A dark green, N-reg Peugeot 605 SVE automatic. But I also drive a lot of competitor cars to understand what they are doing and how good the cars are. There aren't many bad cars nowadays.

Do you enjoy driving?

Yes, I enjoy driving quickly, but not too quickly, and safely I hope.

What is your dream car?

I don't hanker after cars. They are just functional machines. If I did it would be one that could get me to the beautiful west coast of Scotland very fast.

What is your most hated car?

Any ugly car, but ugly is in the eye of the beholder. I think the Volvo Estate is ugly and isn't a very good drive either, and I don't like the Fiat Brava, but to somebody it may be ideal.

What is your worst habit in the car?

Driving one-handed. With power steering, I have to watch myself.

What infuriates you most about other drivers?

People who drive in the middle lane when the inside one is free. Bad manners, cutting in and impatience.

What is the most unusual

thing you recall in your car?

I was driving in Northern Ireland just after the first motorway was built. The only other car on the road was parked in the outside lane and the owner was picking mushrooms on the reservation.

Have you ever had any points on your licence?

Yes. In 1973 a friend suggested I try out his new car. I was stopped along a country lane for exceeding the 50mph limit. The police said they'd been following me for four miles and it might be a good idea if I looked in my rear-view mirror occasionally.

What do you listen to while driving?

Classical music mostly. Mozart, interspersed with the inimitable Billie Holiday and Charlie Parker. I do like Forties jazz.

If you were made Secretary of State for Transport what is the first thing you would do?

Develop a 20-year strategy. We've got to know how we are going to face congestion in city centres and how to have a system of motor taxation relevant to the use of motor cars.

What is your worst/favourite car advertisement?

My favourite is the Peugeot 406 "there is no such thing as an average person" commercial. But I would say that wouldn't it? It was so emotional and the images and music were really powerful, and it proved very successful. There are no worst ads but there are some I don't understand, like the "they don't want you to buy this car" ad for the Nissan Almera. If "they" don't want you to buy the car, why buy it?

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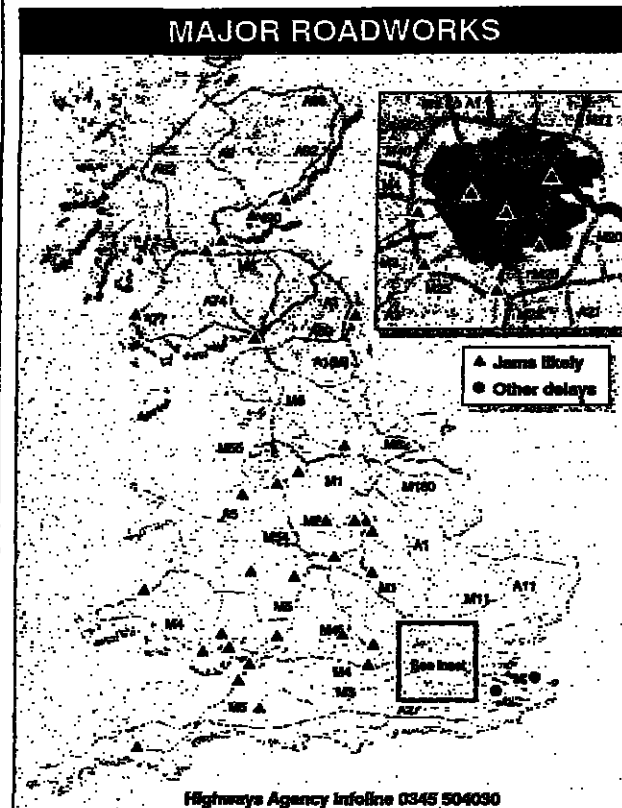
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LONDON
A2216 East Dulwich; temporary lights on Grove Vale at Ockendon Road.
A30 Ashford at the junction with Stanwell Road and Town Lane; off-peak lane closures.
A21 Orpington; roadworks on Sevenoaks Road.
A123 Ilford; roadworks on Cranbrook Road at the junction with the Drive; traffic down to single alternate lanes.
A4 Chiswick; Great West Road; traffic down to two lanes both ways.
SOUTH EAST
A328 Reading; inner distribution road (IDR) closed at various points overnight.
A40 High Wycombe; Oxford Road; temporary lights.
M20 junction 8; roadworks on A20 roundabout above motorway with one lane closed.
A290 Clapham Hill; temporary lights in both directions.
A34 South Hinksey; off-peak lane closures on the Hinksey Hill interchange.
M25 junctions 6-10; major work with various restrictions.
SOUTH WEST
M5 junctions 18-19; contraflow with a 50mph limit.
A386 Plymouth; lane closures on Tavistock Road south of the Dartford roundabout.
A358 Rampton; temporary lights during the day.
A38 Gloucester; major roadworks at the Cole Avenue roundabout.
A38 West Huntspill; temporary lights on Black Bridge.
MIDLANDS AND EAST ANGLIA
A514 Swarkestone; speed restrictions.
A451 Kidderminster; Horsefair closed out of town northbound A50 Leicester; various lane restrictions between Markfield and Coalfield.
A6 Crick; contraflow on Link Road for westbound traffic. 40mph speed limit.
A50 Utterson; contraflow between the B5030 Rochester Road and the A518 into Utterson town centre.
A444 Edgewick; Coventry; lane closures on Foleshill Road.
NORTH
M6 junctions 20-21a; three narrow lanes both ways between the Lymn and Croft junctions.
A7 Carlisle; Scotland Road reduced to single lane each way.
A6 Stockport; Wellington Road South down to single lane both ways between Exchange Street and Central Street.
A167M Newcastle; Roadworks on central motorway between Jesmond Road and the New Bridge Street roundabout.
M1 J47; lane closures around the Leeds junction.
WALES
A470 Llyswen; temporary lights at Llangood Hall.
A550 Between Woodbank and Queensferry; narrow lanes with 40mph speed limit.
A4051 Newport; lane closures on Malpas Road between the M4 interchange at junction 26 and Woodlands roundabout.
A472 Pontypool; contraflow between Pontypool and the Heron roundabout.
M4 junctions 34-35; contraflow.
A462 Abercromby Upper Bridge on South Road is closed.
SCOTLAND
A92 Tay Road Bridge; lane closures southbound.
M8 junction 15; reduced to two lanes westbound.
M90 junction 3; contraflow.
A737 Lincville Spur; down to a single lane each way between Saint James and Lincville interchanges.
A77 Ballantrae; Temporary lights on Main Street for roadworks. Delays.

Poor parting for Samson

Peter Millar finds the final part of Len Deighton's triplet of spy thriller trilogies convoluted and strictly for addicts of the genre

CHARITY
By Len Deighton
HarperCollins, £16.99
ISBN 0 00 224470 5

can friend of his father who has become his boss (I warned you it was for addicts) are all explained, more or less.

The feeling for place and dialogue are unmatched, particularly when the action moves back to Berlin. Deighton knows and loves Berlin and its people with the true passion that only those of us who have ever lived in Europe's most poignant, romantic and quixotic city can truly share. He also knows the language and the dialect and uses them sparingly, properly, rather than — as so many spy writers do — throwing in corny phrases that give about as

accurate a feel for location and colour as "Achtung!" in the speech bubbles of 1950s comics. The greatest disappointment, however, for those of us who have had to struggle to maintain our interest in a series of books that reduces the "great game" of espionage to office politics and tortuous, tawdry affairs, is that we end up still in 1988. The series has not been leading up to an awe-inspiring denouement in the communist *Götterdämmerung* of 1989, but rather a formal, Agatha Christie-style abstract unravelling of knots, as if the whole business were set in a vacuum. One secret I give away without the



Deighton: deaf ear for dialect

slightest compunction is the worst excuse for a formulaic title I have yet encountered. "Charity" turns out to be the full name of the M16 director-general's dog, previously known as C. Riveting stuff, Len.

ALL GOOD things must come to an end, including, I suppose, soap operas. So, inevitably, Len Deighton, the man who began his career by bringing the espionage epic brutally down to earth in the character of Harry Palmer and ended up writing the Cold War equivalent of *East-Enders*, has at last, we may presume, penned the final chapter in the saga of Bernard Samson.

Faith, Hope And Charity followed *Hook, Line And Sinker* on the heels of *Game, Set And Match* in a triplet of trilogies which were decimated by the prequel *Winter, a Berlin*, equivalent of the *Forsyte Saga* which started the whole thing off. Deighton continues to maintain, in the hope, no doubt, of attracting new readers late in the sequence, that each book is readable in its own right. This is true,

but only up to a very limited point. The Samson saga is for addicts only. That said, *Charity* does tie up the loose ends — and there are more than enough of them — admirably. At long last, Bernard's obsession with the circumstances of his sister-in-law's death at the end of his wife's phoney defection to the KGB, the role of his double-agent brother-in-law, his relationships with his former lover, his old schoolfriend and the Ameri-

Dick Francis rides again

Walter Ellis watches the master gallop into the winner's enclosure

ONE OF THE lesser skills of Dick Francis lies in making his readers wonder at what point they will make it to the racetrack.

We all know that Francis, the former champion jockey, is not about to weave a tale around soccer or the Olympic Games. Horses are his turf, and he sticks to them. Yet he likes to toy with us a while; to make us wonder if we were right to place the bet.

In *To The Hilt*, the narrative opens in the unlikely setting of a Highland bothy, where there is dirty work afoot. Young Alexander Kinloch, the long-haired, bagpipe-playing nephew of Earl Kinloch, is a painter and part-time recluse who, from his mountain fastness, produces canvases that show his fellow countrymen locked in mortal combat... playing golf.

Golf? We are at once unnerved. But do not fear. Security is to be found as early as page three, where we are informed that Alexander paints in acrylics because they "out-virtue" oil "by furlongs". Furlongs, do you see? It's going to be all right. Not long

TO THE HILT
By Dick Francis
Michael Joseph, £15.99
ISBN 0 7181 3754 X

after, we learn that Al's stepfather, Sir Ivan Westering, Bart, and his uncle, the Earl (known as "Himself"), share stabling facilities at Newbury.

Back, though, to the bothy. Here, in the opening sequence, Al is beset by a gang of ruffians who demand to know, "where is it?"

Where is what? They do not say.

Are they searching for the King Alfred Gold Cup, one of English racing's most storied trophies, or do they in fact seek the "Honour of the Kinlochs", the solid gold hilt of Bonnie Prince Charlie's ceremonial sword, presented to Himself's ancestor in 1746? And what has this to do with the huge scale embezzlement of funds from Sir Ivan's brewery?

Francis reveals all at a gallop, using the whip and landing in his saddle, charging for the finish a length and a half ahead of the field. You have to say: another one for the winners' enclosure.



Diego Velázquez's depiction of St Thomas, from *Velázquez in Seville*, edited by David Davies and Enriqueta Harris (Yale University Press, £40.00, ISBN 0 300 06949 9)

Twisted loyalties defy analysis

ASYLUM
By Patrick McGrath
Viking, £16.00
ISBN 0 670 87001 3

THE ANGUISH and pessimism at the heart of this utterly gripping novel almost defy analysis for it exposes a shadow world of shifting realities where only one thing is certain: there is no asylum. Yet, such is the author's control and the power of his sinewy prose that the effect is one of revelation rather than of anarchy.

In part, this is a soothing effect of the period which is the well-ordered, gin-and-tonic world of the 1950s, the difference being that the setting is a top-security mental hospital. Into it steps beautiful, full-breasted Stella Raphael, wife of the forensic psychiatrist Max, and mother of ten-year-old Charlie. The marriage has not thrived and, inevitably perhaps, Stella falls in love with an inmate, Edgar Stark, a gifted, deeply disturbed sculptor who, in a fit of jealousy, murdered and mutilated his wife. Punctuated by snatches of gothic, desperate sex, the affair becomes an obsession for Stella and, when it goes wrong, culminates in an event of monstrous negation. In the process, three lives are destroyed.

The narrator, Peter Cleave, another psychiatrist, is watching and recording every twist. In truth, what gives *Asylum* its icy cold edge is as much the narrator as the destructions of Stella and Edgar.

Precisely detailed, his account is strewn with ambiguities and curious inconsistencies. If the psychiatrist is as flawed as his patient, what can be the conclusion? Merely, the text suggests elliptically, the battle to decide who is the most cunning.

Fluent and brilliant, *Asylum* defines the perimeter between light and dark, and traces the landscape of disequilibrium where loyalties are twisted and turned with astonishing courage.

ELIZABETH BUCHAN

Rock and roll or comic role?

THIN HE WAS AND FILTHY-HAired
By Robert Llewellyn
Penguin, £5.99
ISBN 0 14 025 082 4

ROBERT LLEWELLYN is a comic actor and comedian most famous for his role as Kryten, the ship's robot, in the television series *Red Dwarf*. Hours filming with his face covered by a latex contraption gave him an easy title for his first book, *The Man in the Rubber Mask*.

This time he has not had it so easy. For the subtitle, *Memoirs of a Bad Boy*, is more than a little misleading. Robert is not really bad at all, except in so far as he does a few drugs, lives in a squat and gate-crashes an Oxford ball. He is, in fact, extremely nice: just your average middle-class boy from Oxford.

His descent into car crime, justifiable violence and a little light theft is never his fault. He is not even terribly amused by it but rather washed along on a tide of very 1970s non-conformity — not conforming, because nobody else is.

The fact that Llewellyn is a comedian does blur one minor issue: one is never quite sure how much the Robert of the book is Robert Llewellyn. When a comic performer says something on stage, its status as fact or fiction is never an issue since its exclusive objective is to make people laugh.

Are we to suspend our disbelief here, or not? If it is absolutely God's honest truth then it is hilarious, if not all that dissimilar from most youthful lives in 1972. If it is entirely fabricated, then how strange, for it is by no means side-splitting stuff.

This is a gently funny, charming and lazily evocative story about a few months in the life of a young hippy: the squatters, druggies, hip chicks and cool cats that he hung out with 25 years ago in an Oxford not yet ravaged by unemployment and commercialism.

GILES COREN

Outside the park gates

Marcel Berlins on Ruth Rendell's new thriller, short on intrigue

THE KEYS TO THE STREET
By Ruth Rendell
Hutchinson, £15.99
ISBN 0 09 179190 1

At the emotional core of the book is a quiet young woman, Mary Jago, house-sitting a property on the park's posh side and working in a nearby spurious museum dedicated to Irene Adler, Sherlock Holmes's only love. She has donated her bone marrow to an anonymous leukemia sufferer, a selfless act incomprehensible to her lover and a cause of their separation.

Under the ethical rules that apply, once her beneficiary has survived a certain time, she is entitled to be told his identity: Leo, who lives not far.

The two meet, tentatively, then more passionately. Their idyll is interrupted by the intervention of the former lover, then by an inheritance which makes her rich. The gentle, wistful Leo himself becomes more and more of an enigma. Their intimate psychological drama unfolds slowly, delicately, weaving in and out of the sensational events that are taking place in the park.

A bird in the hand

IN BRITAIN the art of falconry — the keeping of hawks for hunting — has been practised since the Dark Ages. But the bonds that bind hawks and humans together are very different from any other relationship between ourselves and our fellow creatures. Training a bird of prey is not like keeping a dog or a horse. A hawk cares nothing for its owner. It remains aloof, true to itself, and loves only those things it was designed to do: flying, hunting and killing.

Clearly, none of this bothered Emma Ford, whose introduction to the arcane world of falconry came at the age of eight in the guise of Wally, a captive Wahlburg's eagle which, judging by the photograph of the two of them together, was almost big enough to carry her off.

The eagle belonged to Allan Oswald, official falconer to Lord Massarene, the owner of Chillingham Castle in Kent, whose rambling estate formed the perfect background for a child mad about animals.

From that moment on, Emma Ford decided to walk through the rest of her life with a hawk on her hand. Birds of prey became her abiding obsession, and although other animals enter her story — including a horse that bit off her grandmother's nipple — it was the raptors



Ford with a peregrine falcon. Raptors are her passion

FLEDGLING DAYS
By Emma Ford
John Murray, £16.99
ISBN 0 7195 5512 4

with their hooked beaks and claws that seized her young imagination.

After Wally other birds followed thick and fast: owls, kestrels, Pallas's sea eagles, and the fearsome Cuthbert, a South American caracara with a black like a chainsaw. The human characters that filled her childhood are no less exotic. There is Lord Massarene, one of life's less expert shavers; Alex, an artist

who paints live fish which he keeps in his bath; and Jim, a London dushman with a go-hawk tattooed on his back.

Together, this colourful menagerie of birds, beasts and people make for a thoroughly entertaining autobiography. Married at 17 to her childhood sweetheart, invited to the palace of Sheikh Said, the ruler of Abu Dhabi, when she had barely finished school, Emma Ford appears to have crammed more into her formative years than many people manage in a lifetime.

BRIAN JACKMAN

Disease and the Mother of all Mad Cows...

Not BSE but Bovine TB which killed over 800,000 people in the UK between 1850-1950. The inaction of Government then and now is remarkably similar. The full story is revealed in the September issue of *History Today*.

Also articles ranging from the Secret History of the Habsburgs to the Saddam Hussein of the Roman Empire, Emperor Domitian — plus much more!

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NEW IN PAPERBACK



The Führer's friend: Albert Speer with Hitler (1936)

ALBERT SPEER
His Battle With Truth
By Gitta Sereny
Picador, £9.99
ISBN 0 330 34695 0

IF, after reading this biographical tour de force, one doesn't understand the secret of Adolf Hitler's demonic hold over the hearts and minds of intelligent, gifted people, it is not the author's fault. Speer, Adolf Hitler's chief architect and Minister of Armaments, who narrowly missed being hanged at Nuremberg but spent 20 years in Spandau, was essentially a civilised and humane man. Yet he came as near as anyone to being Adolf Hitler's closest friend and certainly ordered the importation of slave labour for the munitions factories, even if, as he always claimed, he was ignorant of the slaughter of the Jews.

One of Sereny's many strengths as a biographer is that she does not disguise her genuine liking for Speer,

whom she got to know well during the last four years of his life, despite her journalist's determination to trap him into admitting that he knew a lot more than could ever be proved.

The most fascinating chapters, inevitably, deal with Speer's almost romantic relationship with Adolf Hitler, whom he worshipped unquestioningly from 1933-1944, when the scales seem to have fallen from his eyes: "It was his face, I looked at it and thought, 'My God, how could I never have seen how ugly he is.'" Up until that point, the young and ambitious Speer saw Adolf Hitler as a messiah and was deeply flattered to have been admitted to his inner circle.

While no one, it would seem, can explain why so many of Adolf Hitler's closest associates were oblivious to his monstrous side, this outstanding book is a gripping study of moral ambiguity.

DEAD MAN'S WALK By Larry McMurtry
Phoenix, £6.99 ISBN 1 85799 510 4

NAKED WHORES wrestle with snapping turtles while Comanche Indians prick the eyes from their victims in this prequel to Larry McMurtry's Pulitzer Prize-winning *Lonesome Dove*. We join corporals Woodrow Call and Gus McRae as they learn not only the skills of a Texas Ranger but the bounds of human friendship and despair while on a fated expedition through dangerous Indian country in the cruellest of conditions. McMurtry has crafted a tale of love, fear and sacrifice in the face of Wild West adversity. With his vibrant, dynamic landscapes and language that springs from the page this book captures the heart until the last word.

THE ROACHES HAVE NO KING
By Daniel Evan Weiss
Sereny's Tail, £8.99
ISBN 1 85242 326 9

IN THIS roach-eye view of life in contemporary urban America, Daniel Weiss presents a witty study of the underbelly of society. Reversing the roles of animals and natural history commentators, the cockroaches monitor and philosophise on the lives of the humans whose flat they inhabit. Yet when faced with the horrors of human cleanliness which can only inevitably lead to famine or insecticide, the roaches begin to fight back in a sophisticated example of the survival of the fittest.

THE NAKED MADONNA
By Jan Wiese
Panther, £5.99
ISBN 1 86046 149 2

CATASTROPHIC and marvellous events attend a mysterious Tuscan portrait of the Madonna and child, found abandoned in the Vatican. Who is the artist? Who is the model? In this tantalising set of stories within a story, an archivist, in prison for his own crime of passion, spins out the tales of a marketplace storyteller and finds the scene of an earlier murder. Enigmatic and enchanting — history, religion and morality here intertwine.

Contributors, Nicki Household, Perry Cleveland-Peck, Amanda Loose, Victoria Walker, Alison Burns

No 1 for WRITERS

Of all the actions which writers can take to help their craft, the first has to be joining *Writers News*. It provides you with your own research department, a unique news service, market opportunities, constant advice and inspiration and much more besides. Our exclusive range of competitions includes many with £1,000 cash first prizes... and see your work published. Membership actually brings you TWO writing magazines. Send 4 x 1st class stamps for the current pair and our unique introductory offer of a further dozen magazines for £10. You'll be joining thousands who say they wonder how they ever managed without us.

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GOING OUT

CHILDREN

LONDON
All the Fun of the Fair
Grand traditional fair
including the Coin Street Festival
finale, featuring rides, stalls
and many other attractions.
Riverside Walkway,
South Bank.
Various venues, SE1 (0171-401
3610). Today, ends tomorrow,
from midday; phone for
details.

Asterix Extravaganza
Asterix memorabilia and
other activities relating to the
animated French hero.
Commonwealth Institute,
Kensington High Street, W8
(0171-603 4535). Tomorrow, phone
for details: £5.

Go Noah Go!
Puppet performance featuring
Mr and Mrs Noah amid the
flood.
*Little Angel Marionette
Theatre*,
Dagmar Passage, Cross
Street, N1 (0171-226 1787). Today,
tomorrow, 11am and 3pm: £5.

Peepshows
Three-year-olds and above are
invited to join a creative
workshop.
*Bethnal Green Museum of
Childhood*,
Cambridge Heath Road, E2
(0181-983 5200). Today, 11am-
12.45pm and 2-3.45pm; free.

The Senseless World
Educational performance
designed for all the family,
focusing on life without the
five senses.
Science Museum,
Exhibition Road, SW7 (0171-
938 8080). Today, tomorrow,
phone for details: £5.50,
concs £2.90.



Feathery friend: Sid Seagull at the White Cliffs Experience, Dover

REGIONAL

**The Singing Kettle in the
Wild West**
Featuring the kettle-robbing
bandits in this sing-along western
mystery.
Grand Opera House,
Great Victoria Street (01232
241910). Today, 11am and 2pm;
£5-£7, family conc available.

BIRMINGHAM
Puppet Festival
Large-scale festival with more
than 200 performances.
The Pallasades,
Station Street (0121-633 2139).
Ends today, 10am-4pm; free.

CLWYD
High Jinks
Mixed activity bag, including
drama, sports and face painting.
Bodelwyddan Castle,
Bodelwyddan (01745 584563).
Today, ends tomorrow, 10.30am-
midday, 12.30-2pm and 2.30-
4pm; £1.25.

CAMBRIDGE
Doll Fair
Dolls, teddies and miniatures
on display.
Chilford Hall,
Linton (01223 892641).
Tomorrow, 10.30am-4.30pm;
£2.20, concs £1.10, child free.

DOVER
Summer Holiday Fun Trail
Alternative exhibition
including a famous names
competition, giant draughts
set and the *Time and Tide Show*,
featuring Sid Seagull.
White Cliffs Experience,
Market Square (01304 210101).
Today, tomorrow, 10am-6.30pm;
£3.99-£4.99, child £3.50 (ages
four to 14), under fours free.

DUBLIN
World of Primates
Featuring the zoo's new

outdoor islands housing
endangered species of monkeys.
Dublin Zoo,
Phoenix Park (00 3531 677
1425). Today, 9.30am-6pm,
tomorrow, 10.30am-6pm;
£5.50, child £3, under 3 free.

EDINBURGH
Greyfriars Bobby
Songs, puppet performances
and storytelling led by Sylvia
Troon and Douglas Kerr.
Netherbow Arts Centre
(Fringe Venue 30),
High Street (0131-556 9579).
Today, 2pm; £3, concs £2.50.

LEEDS
Dance Workshop
Eight to 18-year-olds are
invited to salsa, boogie and tap
through a regular class.
*Northern School of
Contemporary Dance*,
Chapelton Road (0113-262
5359). Today, 9.30am-2.30pm;
admission 50p.

LLANTWIT MAJOR
Pirate Adventure Trail
Seven to 11-year-olds are
invited to follow a magical trail of
caverns and forests.
St Donats Castle,
(01446 794848). Ends today,
10am-midday and 2.30-4.30pm;
admission £3.

NEWCASTLE UPON TYNE
Children's Gallery
Activities for the under-fives,
featuring toys, games and art.
Laiting Art Gallery,
Higham Place (0191-232 7734).
Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow,
2pm-5pm; free.

NORWICH
Snow White and the Dwarfs
Adaptation of the children's
classic, for four to eight-year-olds.
Norwich Puppet Theatre,
St James's, Whitefriars (01603
629921). Today, 2.30pm: £3.75.

COMEDY

LONDON
Banana Cabaret
Ruger Dee, Farrot, Rex Boyd
and Paul Thorne.
The Bedford,
Bedford Hill, SW12 (0181-673
1756). Tonight, 9pm: £5,
concs £4.

Comedy Store Players
Television-friendly line-up
with Paul Merton, Lee Simpson,
Jim Sweeney, Richard
Vranich and Neil Mullarkey.
Comedy Store,
Oxendon Street, SW1 (01436
914433). Tomorrow, 8pm: £10.

Jongleurs Camden
Mandy Knight, Steve
Rawlings, Sean Mee and Phil
Davey, Keith Fields MCs.
Jongleurs Comedy Camden
Lock,
Chalk Farm Road, NW1
(0171-924 2766). Tonight, 7.15pm
and 11.15pm: £10, concs £7.

REGIONAL
EDINBURGH
Bill Bailey
Rising star specialising in
musical pastiche and surreal
humour.
Assembly Rooms,
George Street (0131-226
2428). Tonight, 9pm: £7.50.

Rhona Cameron
Gaytime TV's presenter
dishing out the gags.
Assembly Rooms,
George Street (0131-226
2428). Tonight, 7pm: £8,
concs £7.

Men's Style and Fitness
Neil Mullarkey offers
grooming tips for men.
Pleasance,
The Pleasance (0131-556
6550). Tonight, 8.45pm: £6.



Edinburgh: Greg Proops is live on stage at the Pleasance

Greg Proops
The resident American
prankster from the television
show *Whose Line Is It
Anyway?* performs live on stage.
Pleasance,
The Pleasance (0131-556
6550). Tonight, 8.15pm: £7.50.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

DOMINIC HOLLAND
Last chance to see this comic
with a lively sense of humour in
Edinburgh. Shortlisted for the
Perrier Award, Holland is in his
element in the Gilded Balloon's
own cellar making funny obser-
vations about shatterproof rulers
and taking out loans to shop
at Marks & Spencer. It is
refreshing to find a stand-up
who neither thinks he's a stud
nor needs to dress up as a nerd
to make you laugh.

KATE BASSETT

**Gilded Balloon
Honeycomb**,
Blair Street, Edinburgh
(0131-226 2151). Tonight, 8.15pm.

POP

LONDON
Big Country
Epic Scottish rockers with
the trademark bagpipe guitar
sound.
Mean Fiddler,
Harlesden High Street,
NW10 (0181-961 5490).
Tonight, 8pm: £10.

Marianne Faithfull
The 1960s icon sings the
songs of Brecht and Weill.
Almeida Theatre,
Almeida Street, N1 (0171-
359 4404). Tonight, tomorrow,
8pm: £10.50-£16.50.

Newham Festival
Soul from Edwin Starr,
ska from the Selector, and
Cajun from Joli Blon.
Beckton District Park
South,
Strait Road, E6 (0181-472
1430). Tomorrow, 1pm-7pm;
admission free.

REGIONAL

BELFAST
Belfast Folk Festival
Four Men and a Dog,
Watercress, Bearcat Cajun
Playboys, Loyko, Susan
Tomelty Band, Colum Sands,
Isaac Guillory, Sean Tyrrell

and Liam Lewis, Siobhan
Skates, Rosemary Woods.
Ulster Hall,
Bedford Street (01232
323900). Tonight, 6.30pm: £12,
concs £10.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

EDDI READER
Reader has ploughed a some-
what erratic course since the
break-up of the band which
she found fame fronting, Fair-
ground Attraction. A solo LP,
then a label change. Another
album, this time rewarded
with Brits nominations if only
modest sales. And then, ear-
lier this summer, a third set,
Candyfloss and Medicine,
which has also merely dipped
a toe into chart water and then
run back to its deck-chair. A
shame, because she is an
intelligent performer with a
wonderfully athletic voice
and, frequently, on-the-money
interpretative skills.

ALAN JACKSON

Ulster Hall,
Belfast (01232 323900).
Tomorrow, 8pm: £16.50,
concs £14.50.

CASTLE DONINGTON
Off the Tracks Festival
La Cucina, Miranda Sex
Garden, Chris Leslie and
Kevin Dempsey, Ed and
Denyse Alleyne-Johnson, Blue

Horses, Wholesome Fish,
Prego and more (today), FOS
Brothers, the Landau
Forte Classical Ensemble
(tomorrow),
Park Farmhouse,
(01332 384518). Today,
tomorrow, midday: £20-£25,
day tickets available.



Irvine Beach Festival: Björk is among tomorrow's line-up

FLEETWOOD
Fyde Folk Festival
Show of Hands, Martin
Carthy, The McCalmans, Si
Kahn, Albion Band, Roy
Bailey, Garva, Debby
McClatchy, La Lugh and
many more.
Marine Hall,
Marine Hall (01253
872317). Today, tomorrow,
phone for times: £29.50,
day tickets available.

AYRSHIRE
Irvine Beach '96
Supergass, Julian Cope,
Shed Seven, Kula Shaker
(today), Björk, Underworld,
808 State (tomorrow),
Irvine Beach Festival,
(0131-557 6969). Today,
2pm, £18; tomorrow, 2pm:
£18.50.

KENDAL
Cumbria Blues Festival
Former Fleetwood Mac
legend Peter Green headlines,
with Bernie Marsden, the
Hoax, the Bill Baileys and
Southside Peace Company.
Brigsteer Racecourse,
(015-934 2000). Today,
1pm: £22.50.

MORECAMBE
Womad Festival
The line-up includes
Ssempeke, Tenores di Bini,
Gesulino Dealana, Gitanes
du Rajasthan, Gregory
Isaacs, Salsa Y Ache, Ray
Lema and the Rhythmites
(today); Boys of the Lough,
Adel Salameh and K. Sridhar,
Thierry Robin, Brian
Kennedy, Soriba Kouyate,
Omar Pene, Najma
Akhtar, Medea (tomorrow).
Morecambe Bay,
(01225 744494). Today,
tomorrow, midday: £15, concs
£12, child £5.

BOOKS

LONDON
Remember the Past...
Martin Bell reads excerpts
from his book, entitled *In
Harm's Way*.
Information hotline,
various venues (0181-458
3282). Tomorrow, 7.30pm;
phone for details.

REGIONAL
EDINBURGH
The Edinburgh Literary
Pub Tour
Theatrical pub tour led by

professional Edinburgh-
based actors.
The Beehive Inn,
The Grassmarket (0131-554
0777). Tonight, 6pm,
tomorrow, 1pm and 6pm;
£6, concs £5.

**Kathleen Jamie and Liz
Lochhead**
The poets read a selection
of their works.
Famous Grouse House
(Adam House),
Chamber Street (0131-661
5687/220 5606). Today,
midday-1pm; £3.50.

FILMS

**Films in London and
(where indicated with the
symbol ♦) on release
across the country**

NEW RELEASES

Boys (15)
Fuzzy drama about two
young lives at the crossroads.
With Winona Ryder and
Lukas Haas. Director, Stacy
Cochran.
Virgin Tracadero (0171-434
0031)

♦ **Phenomenon (PG)**
John Travolta's IQ gets a
booster shot. Increasingly
mawkish comic fantasy.
With Kyra Sedgwick.
Director, Jon Turteltaub.
Barbican (0171-438 8891)
Odeon: Kensington (01426
914666) *West End* (01426
915 574) *Ritz* (0171-737 2121)
UCI Whiteleys (0990
888900) *Virgin Chelsea* (0171-
352 5096)

CRITIC'S CHOICE

♦ **STEALING BEAUTY (15)**
Bertolucci returns to Italy
after 15 years of exotic
wanderings with a very enjoy-
able, intimate film about an
American teenager's sexual
flowering during one long
dreamy summer in Tuscany.
Liv Tyler, a star in the
making, galvanises all comers
with her mixture of innocence
and sensuality; and the Tus-
can hills look divine. Light-
weight, certainly; flimsy, no.
With Jeremy Irons and
Sinead Cusack.

GEOFF BROWN

Barbican (0171-638
8891) *Chelsea* (0171-351 3742)
Clapham Picture House
(0171-498 3323) *Curon*
(0171-498 3323) *Mayfair*
(0171-737 2121) *Gate*
(0171-727 4043) *Lumiere*
(0171-836 0691) *Phoenix*
(0181-853 2233) *Rio* (0171-254
6677) *Ritz* (0171-737 2121)
Screen on Baker Street (0171-
935 2772) *Screen on the
Green* (0171-226 3520) *Screen
on the Hill* (0171-435 3366)

CURRENT

♦ **Eraser (18)**
Dishevelled Arnold
Schwarzenegger vehicle, with
Vanessa Brown, James
Caan, and mayhem galore.
Director, Charles Russell.
*ABC Tottenham Court
Road* (0171-636 6148)
Clapham Picture House
(0171-498 3323) *MGM Baker
Street* (0171-935 9772)
Odeon: Kensington (01426
914666) *Swiss Cottage*
(0990 888900) *Virgin:*
Fulham Road (0171-370 2636)
Haymarket (0171-839 1527)
Tracadero (0171-434 0031)
Warner (0171-437 4343)

♦ **Independence Day (12)**
Aliens invade America's

skies in this outside
popcorn feast starring Jeff
Goldblum, Will Smith,
Bill Pullman, Judd Hirsch
and Mary McDonnell.
Director, Roland Emmerich.
*ABC Tottenham Court
Road* (0171-636 6148)
Clapham Picture House
(0171-498 3323) *Notting Hill
Coronet* (0171-727 6705)
Odeon: Kensington (01426-
914 666) *Leicester Square*
(01426 915 683) *Marble Arch*
(01426 914 501) *Swiss
Cottage* (0171-586 3057) *Screen
on Baker Street* (0171-935
2772) *UCI Whiteleys* (0171-792
3332) *Virgin: Chelsea*
(0171-352 5096) *Fulham Road*
(0171-370 2636)

♦ **James and the Giant
Peach (U)**
Mistreated James finds his
feet in a peach voyaging
across the Atlantic.
Excellent animated version of
Roald Dahl's book, from
the team behind *The
Nightmare Before
Christmas*. Director, Henry
Selick.
Odeon: Kensington
(01426-914 666) *Swiss Cottage*
(01426 914098) *Rio* (0171-
254 6677) *UCI Whiteleys* (0171-
792 3332) *Virgin: Chelsea*
(0171-352 5096) *Tracadero* (0171-
434 0031) *Warner* (0171-437
4343) *Watermans*
(0181-568 1176)

Original Gangster (18)
Veteran actors (Fred
Williamson, Jim Brown) come
to the rescue of a gang-
ravaged community. With
Pam Grier. Engaging
genre piece from director
Larry Cohen.
Virgin Tracadero (0171-
434 0031)

♦ **The Truth About Cats
and Dogs (15)**
Pleasant romantic comedy
about mistaken identity, with
Jancane Garofalo, Uma
Thurman and Ben Chaplin.
Director, Michael
Lehmann.
Plaza (0990 888900)
Ritz (0171-737 2121) *Virgin
Chelsea* (0171-352 5096)
Warner (0171-437 4343)

Critic's Choice: Liv Tyler stars in *Stealing Beauty*

♦ **Twister (PG)**
Cardboard characters
chase tornadoes. Great
special effects, but
repetition softens the impact.
With Helen Hunt and Bill
Paxton. Director, Jan De
Bont.
Empire (0990 888900)
MGM Baker Street (0171-435
9772) *Odeon Kensington*
(01426 914666) *UCI Whiteleys*
(0990 888900) *Virgin:*
Fulham Road (0171-370 2636)
Tracadero (0171-434
0031)

JAZZ

LONDON
Ruby Braff Quartet
Resolutely unfashionable
neo-swing cornetist from
Boston, a staunch
revivalist of early trad styles
since the 1950s.
Pizza Express,
Dean Street, W1 (0171-439
8722). Tonight, 8pm: £20.

CRITIC'S CHOICE

LORNA LUFT
Stepping out of the shadow of
her (half) sister Liza Minnelli.
Lorna Luft is the latest arrival
at the Green Room, which
now seems to be moving back
up-market after plumbing the
depths with the likes of Cybill
Shepherd, Bacharach, Sond-
heim and Berlin will be
among the songwriters on the
menu.

CLIVE DAVIS

Cafe Royal,
Regent Street, London
W1 (0171-437 9090). Tonight,
9.15pm: £25, or £55 plus
dinner.

**Kathy Stobart with the
Teddy Beaumont Trio**
Tenor and baritone
saxophone veteran, best
known for her sterling
Duke Ellington-influenced
work with Vic Lewis and
Humphrey Lyttelton line-ups
in the 1950s and 1960s.
Bull's Head,
Lonsdale Road, SW13
(0181-876 5241). Tonight, 8pm;
admission £5.

**Waltham Forest Jazz
Festival**
Featuring Gary Crosby's
ska-jazz hybrid Jazz Jamaica.
Indo-jazz altoist Martin
Speake, former Soft Machine
acoustic guitar virtuoso
John Etheridge, repertoire jazz
vocalist Sadey Kent with
saxophonist Jim Tomlinson,
funk-edged trumpet
wunder Byron Wallen and
blues saxophonist Dick
Heckstall Smith, all backed
by the Jon Gee Trio.
*Walthamstow African-
Caribbean Centre*,
Ive Farm Lane, off Church
Road, E17 (0181-558 0838).
Tomorrow, 1-7pm; free.

REGIONAL

BUDE
Jazz Festival
Trad and New Orleans
fest closes with Tommy
Burton, Chicago
Tadpole Society Jazz
Band, Gordon Pettit's
Serenaders and Ben Cohen.
Festival Office,
The Castle (01288 356360).
Today, 10.30am-3pm, 9pm-
1am: £11, £6.50 (evc).
phone for availability.

EDINBURGH
Carol Kidd
Scott songstress pays
tribute to Ella Fitzgerald.
Queen's Hall,
Clerk Street (0131-668
2019). Tonight, 7.30pm: £15,
concs £6-£12.50.

**Edinburgh University
Jazz Orchestra**
Trumpeter Eddie Severn
and his prodigies feature
internationally-ranked
frontline soloists.
*The Ceilidh House and
Tron Jazz Cellar*,
Tron Tavern, Hunter
Square (0131-220 1550).
Tomorrow, tomorrow, 3pm;
£5, concs £3.

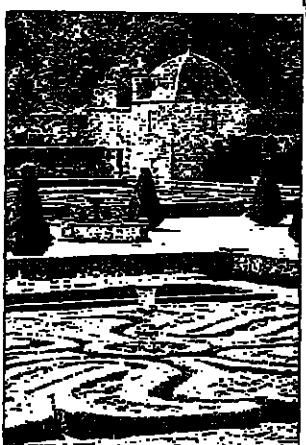
GARDENS

WILTSHIRE
The Courts, Holt, Trowbridge
The National Trust's collec-
tion of gardens contains many
international stars, one of
which is the Courts. Restora-
tion by the Trust has renewed
the stamp of quality that the
garden was given originally
by the Edwardian architect Sir
George Hastings. He lived
here from 1900-1910 and cre-
ated the series of enclosures
around the Bath stone house
that Christopher Hussey
called "an early-Georgian
gem". Hastings's framework
of hedges, stone walls and
ornaments was enlivened with
planting by Lady Cecilia Goff
between the First and Second
World Wars. Different varie-
ties of holly, green and golden
yew and box comprise the
assorted topiary shapes and
hedges, their irregularity in
contrast to the symmetry of
the pleached lime walk along
which you approach the
house. Borders and semi-cir-
cular beds have well-devised
colour schemes many of
whose plants are reminiscent
of the garden's early 20th-
century origins. The garden
progresses effortlessly from
the symmetrical and architec-
tural enclosures to bog and
water gardens, arboretum
and meadow, illustrating why
the formal/informal juxtaposi-
tion remains such a durable
tradition in English gardens.
*2m east of Bradford-on-
Avon, 3m southwest of
Melksham on B3107*
(01225 782340).
Open tomorrow for
National Gardens Scheme
and daily, except Sat, to
end Oct. 2.5pm: £2.80,
children £1.40.

ISLES OF SCILLY
Tresco Abbey, Tresco
Tresco is one of the few
gardens in Britain where you
can confidently take children
and know they will not be
bored. The journey is an
adventure, and once you are
there the array of exotic,
sometimes fantastic, plants is
guaranteed to stir the dullest
juvenile imagination. Tresco's
extraordinary microclimate,
almost guaranteeing frost-free
mildness and high humidity,
combines with an expanded
collection of plants established
by successive generations of
Tresco's owners since 1834. In
recent years, their challenge
has been to overcome the
devastation of previously un-
known frost in 1990, and
severe gales. There has since
been extensive replanting
throughout the terraced levels
that extend to nearly 20 acres.
Tresco has always had foliage
to match its flowers and, once
again, the descending layers
of spikes, fronds and leaves
are reassembling themselves.
Island of Tresco -
helicopter from Penzance
(01736 63871) or boat from
St Mary's (01720 422849).
Open daily, 10am-4pm: £4,
children free.

ABERDEENSHIRE
Pitmeddon House,
Pitmeddon, Ellon
Scotland retains a rare and
distinguished group of gar-
dens with 17th-century origins
that includes Pitmeddon. The
"Great Garden" was made

then by Sir Alexander Grant,
to be overlooked from his
house where the intricate pat-
terns would be best revealed.
But the house was burnt down
in 1818 and the garden fell into
disrepair. Enough of the
walls, buildings and other
ornaments survived, however,
for the Scottish National Trust
to embark on ambitious resto-
ration after it was left the
property in 1951. Seventeenth-
century plans for formal gar-
dens at Holyroodhouse were
consulted for the patterns in
the parterre. This was
recreated in four rectangles
enclosed by low box and
divided by an avenue of yew
cones. At this time of year the
parterre is still aglow with the
40,000 annuals that combine
with coloured chippings to
bring the patterns to life. The
twin gazebos that survive
from the original garden at
either end of the north wall are
buildings of rare charm and
the walls that enclose the
garden on all four sides are
adorned with either herba-
ceous borders, fruit trees, but-
tresses of yew or delightful
swirls of ornamental box.
*On A920, 1m west of
Pitmeddon (01651 542352).*
Open daily to end Sept.



Aberdeenshire: parterre and yew topiary at Pitmeddon

10am-5.30pm: £3.10,
children £2.
EAST SUSSEX
Great Dixter, Northiam
There is always something
new to see at Great Dixter,
however frequently you visit.
The house, yew topiary and
secluded barn garden (where
Edwin Lutyens's decorative
tiles, walls and doorways is a
peak of the Edwardian archi-
tect's garden work) all have
wonderful establishments. In
contrast the planting flazes
with innovation. The formal
rose garden has been swept
away for exotica. Foliage and
brilliant colours are the mix
bananas, scarlet dahlia "Bish-
op of Llandaff", tall purple-
topped spires of Verbena
bonariensis and a brilliant
scarlet crocosmia raised at
Great Dixter. Elsewhere,
tagetes, which most people
think of as the marigold that
smells of cats, is a surprise
discovery, but Great Dixter is
original, not conventional,
and the planting of the mixed
border, changing constantly

GOING OUT

15

GALLERIES

CRITICS CHOICE

FOLK ART IN BRITAIN
Since the Peter Moores Foundation took over the British Folk Art Collection it has moved a stage nearer to what has always been the intention: becoming the national collection of popular and naive art. The selection on view at York City Art Gallery gives a good idea of its range and quality, and above all puts to rest any lingering doubts associated with the concept of Naïve Art. As one might expect with the British, there are many images of animals as well as pictures of national and local heroes, shop and inn signs, farmhouse furniture and toys. Some beauty, some grotesquerie, a lot of charm and fun.

JOHN RUSSELL TAYLOR
York City Art Gallery,
Exhibition Square, York
(01904 551861). Today, 10am-5pm,
tomorrow, 2.30-5pm; free.

LONDON

Tadita Dean: Policy Artist
Former Slade school Brit artist explores sound in film for the Art Now space.
Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000).
Today, 10am-5.50pm; tomorrow,
2.5-5.00pm; free.

Hans Hartung
Comprehensive series of abstract drawings.
Tate Gallery,
Millbank, SW1 (0171-887 8000).
Today, 10am-5.50pm; tomorrow,
2.5-5.00pm; free.

William Morris
Influential designer, poet and radical thinker's life and work.
Victoria and Albert Museum,
Cromwell Road, SW7 (0171-938 8500). Today, tomorrow, 10am-5.30pm; £5.50, concs £3.25.



Birmingham: Father Gregory Wilkins in Nottinghamshire, photographed in 1963 by Eve Arnold, the acclaimed photojournalist

BP Portrait Award
Annual established portrait award.
National Portrait Gallery,
St Martin's Place, WC2 (0171-306 0055). Today, 10am-6pm,
tomorrow, midday-6pm; free.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM
Eve Arnold: In Retrospect
Work spanning four decades from the acclaimed Magnum photojournalist.
John Bright Street (0121-643 0708). Today, 11am-6pm; free.

EDINBURGH
Helen Chadwick
Sculptures and photographs by the late acclaimed artist.
Porfolio Gallery,
Cardmaker Row (0131-220 1911). Today, 10am-5.30pm, ends tomorrow, midday-4.30pm; £1.50, concs 75p.

Alberto Giacometti
Retrospective by one of this century's greats.
Scottish National Gallery of Modern Art,
Belford Road (0131-556 8921). Today, 10am-5pm, tomorrow, 2-5pm; £4, concs £2.50.

Henry Moore
Etchings and lithographs.
Edinburgh Printmakers,
Union Street (0131-557 2479). Today, 10am-6pm; free.

KENDAL
Frank Ascherbach
Series of etchings.
Abbot Hall Art Gallery,
Abbot Hall (01539 722464). Today, ends tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm; £2.50, concs £1.90.

Lucian Freud
Paintings and etchings.
Abbot Hall Art Gallery,
Abbot Hall (01539 722464).

Today, tomorrow, 10.30am-5pm; £2.50, concs £1.90.

MIDDLESBROUGH
Lynna Silverman
Photographs documenting local landscapes and life.
Middlesbrough Art Gallery,
Linthorpe Road (01642 247445). Today, 10am-6pm; free.

ST IVES
Mark Rothko in Cornwall
Rothko's work redefined.
St Ives Tate Gallery,
Porthmeor Beach (01736 796226). Today, 11am-7pm, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; £3.

COMING SOON

LONDON

Sep 21-Oct 6
The Seven Streams of the River Ota
The complete seven-and-a-half-hour version of Robert Lepage's epic piece will be performed in the Lyndelton at the Royal National Theatre. Box office: 0171-928 2252.

From Oct 3
Laughter on the 23rd Floor
Gene Wilder stars in the London premiere at the Queen's Theatre of Neil Simon's autobiographical comedy about his days as a television scriptwriter. Box office: 0171-494 5590.

Sep 7-14
Soho Jazz Festival
Taking place in more than 80 venues and including film, poetry and exhibitions as well as music. Further information available on: 0171-437 6437.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM

From Oct 19
Birmingham Early Music Festival
Taking a Dutch theme this year and featuring music by Obrecht and Ockeghem, played by various ensembles including the Locke Consort, the Hilliard Ensemble and Opera Works. Box office: 0121-605 6666.

CHELTENHAM

Oct 11-20
Cheltenham Festival of Literature
Doris Lessing, Pat Barker and Joanna Trollope are among the guests who will be talking on the theme of women

and women's writing. Further information available on: 01242 237377.

NOTTINGHAM

Sep 12-Oct 12
Popcorn
Laurence Boswell directs a stage adaptation of Ben Elton's latest novel at Nottingham Playhouse. Box Office: 0115-941 9419.

NATIONWIDE

Oct 17-22
The Fugees
The American rap trio, who topped the charts with their version of *Killing Me Softly*, will be touring to the Apollo Theatre, Manchester (Oct 17, 0161-242 2560), the Brixton Academy, London (Oct 18, 0171-924 9999), the Civic Hall, Wolverhampton (Oct 21, 01902 312030) and Barrowlands, Glasgow (Oct 22, 0141-552 4601).



Nationwide: Lauryn Hill of The Fugees, on tour in October

CLASSICAL

LONDON

BBC Symphony Orchestra/Davis
Performing Turgenev's *Your Rockaby*, *Pulcinella* by Stravinsky and *Requiem* by Fauré.
Albert Hall,
Kensington Gore, SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tonight, 7.30pm; £4-£18.

CRITICS CHOICE

GREAT STUFF
The nearest thing that the classical music world has to an All-Stars Band is the Chamber Orchestra of Europe, which draws its players from top orchestras in a dozen or more countries. Its standards are phenomenal, its musicianship is unrivalled, its visits to the Proms (unfortunately London can rarely afford to engage it at any other time) are always eagerly awaited. Tomorrow it performs under Nikolaus Harnoncourt, a conductor whose interpretations usually confound all preconceptions. The programme is Mozart's *Symphony No 38* and Schubert's Ninth, the "Great C Major".

RICHARD MORRISON
Albert Hall,
Kensington Gore, London SW7 (0171-589 8212). Tomorrow, 7.30pm; £4-£23.

London Mozart Players
Handel's *Royal Fireworks Music*, plus Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*.
Kenwood,
Hampstead Lane, NW3 (0171-413 1443). Tonight, 7pm; £13 and £16, concs £10.50.

REGIONAL

ARUNDEL

City of London
Sinfonia Jenkins
Featuring Gershwin's Piano Concerto and Dvořák's *New World Symphony*.
Arunel Cathedral,
(01903 883474). Tomorrow, 6pm; £5-£25.

EDINBURGH
Andras Schiff, Yuuko Shiohara, Eric Hobarth, Nobuko Imai
Collection of Brahms's chamber works.
Queen's Hall,
Clerk Street (0131-668 2019). Today, 11am; £4-£16.



Edinburgh: Andras Schiff will play Brahms

Concert
Frans Brüggen conducts the Orchestra of the Eighteenth Century in a concert devised for children. Including works by Bach, Haydn, Schubert, Mozart, Beethoven, Mendelssohn.
Usher Hall,
Lothian Road (0131-228 1155). Today, 2.30pm; £5.

Edinburgh University Chamber Orchestra
Dances by Kodály, Bartók and Skalkottas, plus Mozart's *Jupiter Symphony*.
Central Hall,
West Tolcross (0131-229 7937). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6.

Elijah
The Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and the Edinburgh Festival Chorus, conducted by Paul Daniel, perform Mendelssohn's oratorio.
Usher Hall,
Lothian Road (0131-228 1155). Tonight, 8pm; £5-£27.50.

The Lindsay
The Haydn quartet retrospective draws to a close.
St Columba's Church,
Lothian Road (0131-226 5259). Tonight, 6pm; £10.

Organ Spectacular
Alberto Massimo plays music from stage and screen.
St Andrew's and St George's,
George Street (0131-313 3135). Today, 12.30pm; £4.50.

HATCH END
London Concertante Works for pairs of horns, cellos and trumpets by Handel and Vivaldi.
Harrow Arts Centre,
Uxbridge Road (0181-428 0124). Tonight, 7.30pm; £6-£10.

PRESTIGE
Prestige Festival Orchestra/Vass Haydn's *Nelson Mass*, plus Vivaldi's *Magnificat* in G minor.
St Andrew's Church,
Broad Street (01544 267800). Tonight, 7.30pm; £8-£12.50.

THEATRE

LONDON

Blinded by the Sun
Frances de la Tour, Duncan Bell and Douglas Hodge play scientists involved in a case of scientific fraud. Ron Daniels directs Stephen Poliakoff's new play.
National (Cottesloe),
South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252). In preview today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm.

CRITICS CHOICE

BODIES
If we could abolish suffering would we also abolish human meaning, art, literature and a lot else? That is the question James Saunders raises in the shrewd comedy with whose revival the Orange Tree is celebrating its 25th birthday. Dinsdale Landen, greyer, more windswept-looking but emotionally as forceful as ever, once again plays the lead and champions the cause of creative neurosis against old friends who have fallen under the spell of an American behaviourist and transformed themselves into serene automatons. A stimulating, gripping evening.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE
Orange Tree,
Clarence Road, Richmond (0181-940 3633). Tonight, 7.45pm; mat, 4pm.

The Heidi Chronicles
Wendy Wasserstein's Pulitzer Prize-winning chronicle play, showing what happens to Heidi (Susannah Harker) on her way from high school in 1965 to her luxury apartment in 1990. David Taylor directs.
Greenwich Theatre,
Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755). Tonight, 7.45pm; mat, 2.30pm.

On the Twentieth Century
Kathryn Evans and Michael N. Harbour play movie star and director in the 1978 Cy Coleman/Comden and Green musical, set on the New York to Chicago express.
Bridwell,
Bride Lane, Fleet Street, EC4 (0171-936 3456). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; tomorrow, 4.30pm.

They Shoot Horses Don't They?
The National Youth Theatre's annual season opens with the stage version of Horace McCoy's novel describing the dance marathons of the American Depression. Edward Wilson directs.
Bloomsbury,
Gordon Street, WC1 (0171-388 8822). Tonight, 7.45pm; mat, 3pm.

REGIONAL

CHICHESTER

Beatrice
Patricia Routledge plays the Lakeland sheep-farmer, better known for Peter Rabbit et al. Directed by Patrick Garland. Music by Carl Davis.
Minerva,
Oaklands Park (01243 781312). Tonight, 7.45pm; mat, 2.45pm.

DERBY
A Chorus Line
First regional production of the musical that ran 15 years on Broadway. Mark Clements directs.
Playhouse,
Eagle Centre (01332 363275). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

GUILDFORD
Uncle Vanya
Chichester Festival Theatre's acclaimed production begins a national tour. Cast includes Derek Jacobi, Alec McCowen, Frances Barber, Constance Cummings and Peggy Mount. Directed by Bill Bryden.
Yvonne Arnaud,
Millbrook (01483 440000). Tonight, 8pm; mat, 2.30pm.

DANCE

LONDON

CRITICS CHOICE
THE JOFFREY BALLET OF CHICAGO
London gets a chance to see one of the most popular ballets ever created. *Billboards* is set to songs by the rock star Prince and features contributions from four different choreographers. Part ballet and part rock concert, *Billboards* does not pretend to be high art, but it has been leaving audiences screaming for more everywhere it goes.

Festival Hall,
South Bank Centre, SE1 (0171-960 4242). Today, 3pm and 8pm. £10-£30.

REGIONAL

BIRMINGHAM

Lord of the Dance
Michael Flatley, of Riverdance fame, has choreographed this Celtic

dance spectacular.
National Indoor Arena,
King Edward's Road (0121-200 2222). Tonight, 8pm, tomorrow, 2.30pm; £23-£26.



Glasgow: Scottish Ballet will dance *Troy Game*

GLASGOW
Scottish Ballet: *Sweet Baroque* and *Roll Triple* bill including *Troy Game* and Robert Cohen's *Four Seasons*.
Royal Concert Hall,
Sauchiehall Street (0141-332 9000). Tonight, 7.15pm, mat, 2.15pm; £5-£15.

FAIRS

LONDON

Adams Antiques Fair
Glass, porcelain, silver, jewellery, furniture and decorative items.
Chelsea Old Town Hall,
King's Road, SW3 (0171-352 3619). Today, 10am-5.30pm; 50p, child free.

Auction of Celebrities' Paintings and Cartoons
Originals
Tony Husband, Peter Brooks, Richard Wilson and Jonathan Rhys are among 100 cartoonists whose work will be on sale for charity.
Phillips,
New Bond Street, W1 (0181-449 1234/449 1515). Tomorrow, preview 2-5pm; auction 7pm; £20.

Hay's Galleria Oyster and Seafood Fair
Oyster season starts with a fair and live music.
Hay's Galleria,
Tooley Street, SE1 (0171-403 5939). Today, 11am-6pm, tomorrow, 11am-5pm; free.

Heritage Antiques Fair
Jewellery, glass, silver, enamels, paintings, prints, and ceramics.
Rembrandt Hotel,
Thurloe Place, W8 (0171-589 8100). Tomorrow, 11am-5pm; phone for details.

REGIONAL

EDINBURGH

Chinese State Circus
Acclaimed team perform gravity-defying acts including 14 girls on one bicycle.
The Meadows,
Melville Drive (0131-668 4918). Tonight, 7.30pm, mat today, tomorrow, 2.30pm; £6-£16.50.

FAIRLIE

Viking Day
Return to the age of the northern conquerors with

combat displays and rune reading.
Kelburn Country Centre,
(01475 568685). Tomorrow, 1-5pm; £4, child £2.50.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS

Skate Jam
Learn ice-skating, roller-skating and roller-blading.
Assembly Hall Theatre,
Crescent Road (01892 530613). Today, 4.30-6pm (families), tonight, 6.30-8pm (under 14s), 8.30-10.30pm (open); £2.50.

OPERA

LONDON

Adis and Galatea
Threshold Theatre Company presents Handel's *Adis*, featuring a libretto by John Gay.
Battersea Arts Centre,
Lavender Hill, SW11 (0171-223 2223). Tonight, 8pm, tomorrow, 6pm; £9 and £12, concs £6.

REGIONAL

NEWTOWN

Carmen
Mid-Wales Opera stages Bizet's ever-popular fiery classic.
Theatre Hayfen,
Llanidloes Road (01686

625007). Tomorrow, 3pm; £10.50-£14.50.

The Marriage of Figaro
English version of Mozart staged by Mid-Wales Opera.
Theatre Hayfen,
Llanidloes Road (01686 625007). Tonight, 7.30pm; £10.50-£14.50.

TUNBRIDGE WELLS
The Turn of the Screw
Broomhill Opera stages Britten's thriller.
Broomhill,
Broomhill Road, Southborough (01892 517720). Tonight, 7.30pm; £12.50-£35.

CRITICS CHOICE

FOUR SAINTS IN THREE ACTS
Virgil Thomson's and Gertrude Stein's *four naïfs* all-American opera of 1934 in a greatly admired production by Robert Wilson for Houston Grand Opera. The likeable cast is led by Ashley Putnam, Marietta Simpson and Sanford Sylvan. Conducted by Richard Bado.

RODNEY MILNES

The Edinburgh Playhouse
Greenside Place (0131-225 5756). Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm; £5-£32.

Frank Field joins a congregation following the old liturgy in a remarkable building

Worship in a work of art



ST MARY'S squats on the hill overlooking Wellingborough railway station. Reverend refers to it as Sir Ninian Comper's "favourite achievement", where the interior furnishing "glitters, and reveals and conceals to one's heart's delight". It is easily accessible from London and takes only an hour from St Pancras. When you approach it, the perpendicular building appears different. It has somehow risen up in the few minutes it takes to walk from the station. Thanks to the three Misses Sharmans — the benefactors — Wellingborough gained the finest parish church built in England this century. Most of the building is full of light so the shapes of the biscuit-coloured concave-sided octagonal columns take the eye up to the stunning plaster lierne-vault with pendants. This wonder competes for your attention for Comper also directs you to look towards the magnificent rood screen and the sanctuary beyond. The great east window is full of distinctive Comper blue, clothing an army of beautiful people (the advertising industry has nothing to teach Comper).

The reason why St Mary's has been without a vicar for two years is easy to discern. Here is a tiny group of Christians adhering to the old religion. The priest wears a Roman-style fiddle-backed chasuble, the Parochial Church Council has shut the door to women priests and the mass sheet is produced

by the Redemptionists, a Roman Catholic order. However, such normally aggravating actions are lost in the wonder of the building and the quality of the small congregation. Even the choice of hymns from one of those modern rant-type collections fails to disturb the beauty. The liturgy is performed with a confidence and certainty that are lacking in modern Anglicanism where services often appear to be made up on the spot. The organ leads the congregation through the sung parts of the mass. The Tractarian tradition, to which the founding priest of St Mary's belonged, saw the

AT YOUR SERVICE

★ A five-star guide ★

RECTOR: vacant until September.

ARCHITECTURE: indescribably beautiful with Sir Ninian Comper at his very best. ★★★★★

SERMON: a fine example of the now lost art. This time on God using the frailest of us. ★★★★★

MUSIC: a good combination sung with great enthusiasm. ★★

LITURGY: well presented with everyone knowing what to do. ★★

AFTER-SERVICE CARE: coffee and tea served after Mass. ★★

SPIRITUAL HIGH: the stunning effect lasts all day. ★★★★★

building of the movement through the nave up to the high altar and then, through the priest, to God. Modern liturgy demands nave altars. St Mary's has followed this trend. Yet it works, perhaps because the screen does just that: closes off the other parts of the church. The church has been kept going by a team of retired clergy. Father Tabernade preached an exemplary sermon of seven minutes. (The name is no misprint, I promise. At the start of his career as a layman he worked for a City firm named Church and lodged with a couple whose name was Chapel.) St Peter's failures were so obvious, yet he was the rock upon which the church was built. So, too, can our frail natures be used for God's work. Why don't principals of theological colleges use older priests to instruct aspiring ordinands in the art of preaching a good sermon? Congregations can then be spared listening to the normal 20 minutes of unprepared drivel which are often presented as sermons.

Afterwards, members of the congregation headed for the parish rooms. They know they are the custodians of an important architectural work and are delighted to welcome visitors. In September the parish gains a new vicar. Comper's style was one of unity by inclusion. That must be the task of the new priest as he stretches out to the parish and the Anglican church from a building of priceless value.

St Mary's, Knox Road, Wellingborough
(01933 225626).

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TRAVEL

17

Tenerife: Away from the areas of mass tourism, you can toast the magnificent views with excellent local wine

The other side of the island

It was the pillow menu that clinched it. I had been impressed by many aspects of the Gran Hotel Bahia del Duque — its kaleidoscopic architecture, four swimming pools, five restaurants, palatial public rooms, impeccable grounds, idyllic beachside location — but the folder offering me a choice of shape, size and firmness of pillows, delivered by the traditionally costumed maids, was what finally brought home to me that Tenerife is serious about attracting and catering for upmarket visitors.

The Bahia del Duque confirmed an impression which had been growing stronger during a week's exploration of the largest of the Canary Islands that most visitors from Britain have only a limited understanding of its possibilities. Whether staying in Las Cristianas, Los Gigantes or Puerto de la Cruz, or in transit to La Gomera or La Palma, they see little of the island, apart from visiting Mount Teide (3,717 metres), the snow-capped volcano that dominates the archipelago.

Teide is indeed worth visiting and safe. Its surrounding national park, Las Cañadas, includes cool pine forests and Moon-like stretches of weathered lava, astonishing rock formations and breathtaking views: the Orotava valley and Anaga mountains in the north, Vilaflor and the cliffs of Los Gigantes in the south.

By hired car you can visit all these and much more. I spent four nights at the five-star Hotel Botánico, in Puerto de la Cruz, on the northwestern coast. From there, it is easy to visit the capital, Santa Cruz, the university town of La Laguna (don't miss the covered market and the superb ethnographic museum of craftwork), and the architecturally rich town of Orotava.

In Puerto, the Botanical Gardens, originally a half-way house for acclimatising American plants on the way to Europe, are a must-see. So, too, is Loro Parque. Loro means parrot, and there are literally thousands of them at this winning combination of study centre, theme park and zoo. In the immaculately maintained grounds you can see a dolphinarium, a sea-lion show, watch a troop of gorillas, battalions of crocodiles and brilliantly coloured and very vocal birds of all kinds.

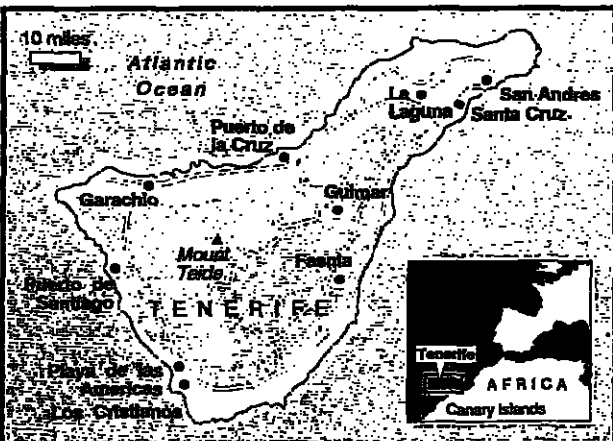
Puerto itself is an attractive resort, with recently improved beaches and waterfront facilities and some excellent restaurants. The Botánico, adjacent to the Gardens and long a favourite with more knowledgeable British visitors, has just had a multimillion-pound refurbishment, reinforcing its position as the top local hotel. I particularly liked the open-air poolside restaurant for lunch, and the new fourth-floor suites, with vast marble bathrooms — from the tub you can enjoy the view of Teide — are the equal of any I have seen.

The range and quality of Tenerife's wines may come as a revelation and can now be sampled without any trouble at all. Just outside Puerto, stunningly situated on a cliff-top, is the Casa del Vino, La Baranda. This restored 17th-century farmhouse houses a museum of wine-making on the island, a library, a tapas bar and a first-class restaurant, and a shop stocking more than 100 local wines.

It is well worth visiting one nearby winery, Bodegas Insulares, which for my money produces the best in the Canaries: Vinya Norte. This compares well with famous labels in France, Italy and mainland Spain. The wines are made by Felipe Blanco, who, with rai-



Guardians of culture: the statues of the ten Guanche (native Tenerife) kings at Candelaria, in front of the basilica of the Virgin, patron saint of the Canary Islands



raculous skill, blends grapes produced by 500 growers. His carbonic-maceration listán negro-negramoll red invariably sells out as soon as each year's is released: snap it up if you see any on sale. Since production costs are twice those in mainland Spain, Tenerife's wines cannot be competitively priced and rarely reach Britain. Bring some back.

For dramatic scenery, take the road north from Santa Cruz (a smart but friendly town and well worth a day's exploration) to San Andrés. From there, perhaps after visiting the spotless, man-made beach at Las Teresitas, head across the Anaga mountains, via the Bailadero pass, to the heroic headlands of Taganana and Almáciga. For more drama, drive back south via the Mirador Pico del Inglés and La Laguna, which is often cool and cloud-haunted.

Rather than the fast but comparatively characterless coastal motorway, follow the old, higher road down the east coast from Santa Cruz to the south. Your first call should be at Candelaria, and the shrine of the Virgin, patron saint of the Canary Islands.

Across the plaza in front of the church, ten striking statues of the indigenous Guanche people appear to be paying homage. The road south then takes in Güimar, Fasnia and Villa de Arico and you can divert to lofty Vilaflor, on Teide's southern slopes: magnificent views and quiet, typical towns.

To the west, a visit to Puerto de Santiago, at one end of the Gigantes cliffs, and Punta del Teno, at the other, are visually rewarding, and there are good restaurants in Santiago. Be-

tween the two, behind high, razor-sharp ridges, lies the impossibly picturesque village of Masca, flower-choked houses scattered along subsidiary ridges above a ferny ravine which can be followed (only by the well-shod and intrepid, with a guide) to the sea.

On the west-coast route north from Masca call at well-preserved Garachico, a flourishing port until a volcanic eruption of 1706 filled in the harbour. It is only minutes to Icod de los Vinos, a town most famous for its gigantic Dragon Tree (*Dracaena draco*, not strictly a tree), reputedly thousands of years old.

It is rarely cold in Tenerife, and perhaps the best time to visit are late spring and early or late summer. First-class golf courses can be found both north and south, and horse-riding is a civilised option for those restless after a few days on the beach. There are other ways than swimming, surfing, windsailing or waterskiing to enjoy the clean, generally cool, sea around Tenerife. Fishing daytrips are easily arranged from Los Cristianos and Playa de las Americas, and whale and dolphin-spotting excursions are increasingly popular. Of course, tea-like-mother-makes-it and karaoke bars are to be had if you insist, but the real Tenerife is waiting to be discovered.

TONY PATRICK

● The author was a guest of The Magic of Spain and Tenerife Tourist Development Bureau.

FACT FILE

■ The Magic of Spain (0181-748 4220) offers seven nights, half-board, at the Botánico (00 34 22 38 14 00) from £639 and £999, depending on the time of year, including flights from Luton, Gatwick, Heathrow or Manchester to Reina Sofia Airport (Tenerife South) or Los Rodeos (Tenerife North), and transfers. Seven nights' bed and buffet breakfast at the Gran Hotel Bahia del Duque (00 34 22 71 30 00) costs £843 to £1,069, including flights to Reina Sofia and taxi transfers.

■ Tenerife Tourist Development Bureau (0171-978 5822).

■ Other recommended hotels in Los Cristianos/Playa de las Americas include the Sir Anthony, Jardín Tropical and Mediterranean Palace/Mare Nostrum, all included in the Magic of Spain programme.

■ Neither British Airways nor Iberia has direct flights to Tenerife, but this week each was quoting economy returns via Barcelona or Madrid from £239 to £427 (Iberia business class is £854). Monarch (01582 398333) has a scheduled service on Tuesdays and Fridays of £169 to £220 Luton-Reina Sofia return. Britannia flights from Gatwick, through Thomson Direct (01882 424155), cost £100 to £290, but average £190. The flight agency Avro (01293 567916) quotes 14-day Gatwick-Reina Sofia return flights in September from £159 (midweek) to £185.

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as the lovely countryside of Southern Saxony, the Wachau Valley and the Danube Bend.

Such an itinerary undertaken completely by coach would indeed be a tiring experience. However, by dividing our time between touring and cruising, we are able to offer a more leisurely schedule. The seven day cruise aboard the first class

THE ITINERARY

DAY 1 London-Berlin Morning departure with British Airways. Drive to the Forum Hotel or similar for a 2 night stay. Afternoon free for a leisurely stroll along the Kurfürstendamm. Dinner in a typical 'Berliner' restaurant.

DAY 2 Berlin-Potsdam Morning excursion of both East and West Berlin, driving along the Unter den Linden, and past the Reichstag, Charlottenburg Palace and the Brandenburg Gate. Afternoon visit to Potsdam—the Versailles of Prussia. Here amongst the splendour of Frederick the Great's creation we will see the palace of Sans Souci, the Tea House and Castle Cecilienhof, where the Potsdam Treaty was signed by the Allies.

DAY 3 Berlin-Dresden Early start, today as we drive to Dresden, the historic capital of Saxony. Virtually flattened by Allied bombing in WWII, the city has been rebuilt in the spirit of regeneration which is now so prevalent in the former East Germany. Visit the Zwinger Palace, a wonderful collection of Baroque pavilions, galleries and gardens. Later see the Semper Opera House and the ruins of St Mary's Church. Stay overnight at the Hotel Mercure or similar.

DAY 4 Dresden-Munich-Munich Morning departure to medieval Meissen for visits to the Porcelain Museum and Factory. In the afternoon drive through the lovely countryside of Saxony-Switzerland to Prague. Stay 2 nights at the Diplomat Hotel or similar. Dinner in a typical Prague beer cellar restaurant.

DAY 5 Prague Our guided tour of the 'Golden City' will include the magnificent Castle area and St Vitus cathedral. Walk along Golden Lane before driving around the city, referred to by Goethe as 'the jewel in the world's crown'. Afternoon free, perhaps to explore the fascinating Jewish Quarter, or visit some of the excellent museums and galleries.

DAY 6 Prague-Passau Drive through the enchanting Bohemian countryside to the picturesque German city of Passau, situated on

the confluence of the Danube, Inn and Ilz rivers. Embark MS Rousseau and sail at tea time, through the delightful lush countryside.

DAY 7 Vienna Morning sailing through the scenic Wachau Valley, arriving in Vienna in the late morning. After lunch there will be an optional excursion of Vienna, driving around the 'ring' and visiting the Old Quarter. Sail in the evening.

DAY 8 Budapest Be on deck as we sail into Budapest, a wonderful city with beautiful views on both sides of both Buda and Pest. An optional excursion will include Gellert Hill, the Matthias Church and the Fisherman's Bastion. Also an optional 'Budapest by Night' tour. Sail at midnight.

DAY 9 Kalocsa Here on the Hungarian Plains (Puszta) we will visit the charming town of Kalocsa. There will be an optional excursion to this area which is rich in folklore and famous for its horses and riding skills.

DAY 10 Budapest-Estergom There will be a brief stop at Budapest for those who wish to take the optional excursion overland to Estergom by way of the picturesque town of Szekesfehervar. Or stay on board and cruise to Estergom, arriving in the early afternoon.

DAY 11 Bratislava Morning in the capital of Slovakia — optional walking tour available. Sail at lunch time back to Vienna. There will be the opportunity to join an optional Vienna music concert in Schonbrunn Palace. Sail at midnight.

DAY 12 Durnstein Arrive in the morning. Join an optional excursion to Melk Abbey and the beautiful wine growing countryside of the Wachau Valley. Sail at lunch time.

DAY 13 Passau Arrive in the morning and disembark after breakfast. Optional walking tour of Passau. Later drive to the famous place of pilgrimage at Albstadt for lunch at the delightful Hotel Post. Later drive to the city of Munich for an overnight stay at the Hotel Dorint or similar. Farewell dinner in Munich.

DAY 14 Munich-London (Heathrow) Late morning departure with British Airways to London.

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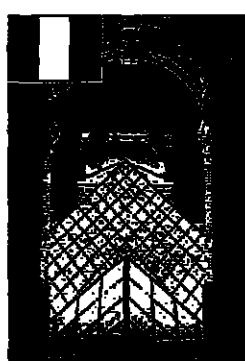
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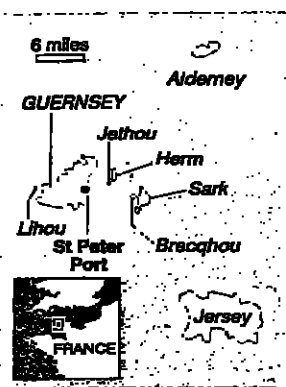
Islands of Britain: Guernsey would suit the Famous Five — while Alderney does things differently...

Where the clock stopped after the war

Looking for a holiday of wild nightclubs and dancing till dawn? Crave bright lights and big city thrills? Then Guernsey is not for you. Tony Carey, Information Officer for the States of Guernsey, is proud of his island's reputation as a haven of peace and quiet. What sort of glamorous celebrities are drawn to Guernsey? He has to think. "We lost Oliver Reed, I'm delighted to say. He lived here for a few years, but the island breathed a collective sigh of relief when he left."

A visit to the Bailiwick of Guernsey is a visit to a bygone age: how much you enjoy the island may depend on how fond you are of by-gones. Imagine an idyllic English town of, say, the late 1950s. Everyone knows everyone else, there is very little traffic (a jam means a three-minute wait at the lights), there is almost no poverty (unemployment runs at less than one per cent: the offshore banking industry means that everyone who wants a good job after leaving school can get one).

Entertainment is simple, almost pastoral. There is a Tomato Museum. The street theatre celebrating the 51st anniversary of the island's liberation was almost endearingly dreadful: besmirched fire-eaters, precariously bal-



anced still-walkers. I bought a waxed-paper bag of fudge made from rich Guernsey cream, sat on the seafloor and felt like Dr Who.

Guernsey is not, of course, entirely British. Its 25 square miles are far closer to France than Britain. Originally part of the French Duchy of Normandy, the Bailiwick of Guernsey — which includes not only Guernsey but the islands of Alderney, Sark, Herm, Jethou, Brecohou and Lihou — became linked to the English Crown at the time of the Conquest; when King John lost his French possessions the islanders chose to remain his subjects. To all intents and purposes they have been independent of either country ever since, with their own laws, taxes and currency. Guernsey

is a nearby haven for Europhobes — it is not a member of the EU.

Guernsey's coast is undoubtedly lovely, and its beauty has drawn visitors through the ages. Victor Hugo was a resident for many years — he wrote *Les Misérables* here — and Renoir returned again and again. One of the painter's favourite spots was the Moulin Huet, a bay in the south-east corner of the island, where we began our exploration. There was bright sun and a brisk breeze as we walked along the cliffs above the bay, the path's banks crowded with bluebells and wild garlic.

Below us the tide — which rises 26 feet — exposed a curve of pale yellow sand, sheltered from the wind and reaching out into a shimmering sea. What better place for a Famous Five picnic? For the more energetic, there is a 21-mile path, clearly marked, along the cliffs from St Peter Port, with regular refreshment stops along the way, and wooden benches facing France for the footsore.

The north west of the island, too, provides splendid walks along the sea: Rocquaine Bay, L'Eree Bay, Perelle Bay — the island's Norman heritage is evident in nearly all its names. Here, while there are still fine sand beaches for the bucket-and-spoon brigade, dramatic



Entertainment on Guernsey is simple, almost pastoral. The island coastline was a favourite of Victor Hugo, who wrote *Les Misérables* here

rocks jut into and rise from the sea. But the drama is not only nature's: overlooking Rocquaine Bay is the Pleinmont Tower, a five-storey direction-finding structure whose deceptively stylish proportions were part of Hitler's Atlantic Walls. It is only one of many German fortifications left on the island, which was occupied by the Germans from June 1940 to May 1945. The

people of Guernsey's ambiguous feelings about the occupation have been transformed into an eager embrace with History: at Fort Houmet where Richard Heaume (pronounced "Yome") has lovingly restored a German battery, known as The Casemate, with eerie thoroughness.

At Castle Cornet, a massive fortification perched on the southern arm of St Peter Port Harbour, the Germans nested their concrete gun emplacements within 16th-century bastions. On sale in the castle shop, beside the tea towels, tiny canisters of martial music from the Third Reich. They sell quite well. Something eerie here too, I think.

Tramping along steep cliffs and through historical enigmas is peckish work. Guernsey prides itself on its many restaurants (again, offshore banking means a lot of conference and business trade), and the native produce of the island — cream, butter, the freshest fish — is wonderful. But a simple meal can be hard to find. The better eateries seem engaged in a determined competition to out-cook each other, and this results in over-complex combinations (smoked salmon with horseradish ice-cream was a bit too much for me: if most of the island seems just postwar,

the kitchens have at least made it to the mid-1980s). Even the most elaborate meal, however, is very reasonably priced: a four-course dinner at the luxurious Victor Hugo restaurant at the St Pierre Park Hotel is less than £20, excluding wine.

To escape from such fussiness you must turn to the smaller islands of the Bailiwick. It's easy to tell where

you're going when the boat pulls out of St Peter Port. The seagulls wheel overhead: "Sark! Sark!" they cry. Forty minutes later the ferry pulls into the island's little harbour. Sark is only three miles long and entirely free of cars. With such conditions even a cowardly cyclist like me was happy to hire a bike and spend an hour or so traversing the island, dismounting to walk

down the Coupée, the plunging isthmus that joins Sark to Little Sark. Horse-drawn carriages are also available: pay a visit to the Seigneurie, home of Michael Beaumont, the feudal ruler of the island. Its gardens are lovely.

Sark, although it has only about 550 inhabitants, has several hotels and restaurants: the same cannot be said of Herm, only 20 minutes' sail from Guernsey. Unlike Sark, which at 350m above sea level has more cliffs than beaches, tiny Herm is surrounded by warm white sands. It says a great deal for the delights of the island that 70 per cent of visitors to the White House Hotel have been before. Sherbet-coloured self-catering cottages are also available: you can order your groceries from the mainland, as Herm is too small even for a shop. Walking round the whole island takes less than an hour if you don't stop to gather cowries on Shell Beach, or gaze at France.

If you want to get away from absolutely everything, Herm is the island for you. I yearned to go back the instant I left. It has the isolated tranquillity of a desert island — but one within easy reach of home.

ERICA WAGNER

● The author was a guest of the States of Guernsey Tourist Board.

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GUERNSEY FACT FILE

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- "Christmas shopping break" at the Duke of Richmond Hotel, (01481 726221) from October 1 to December 22 from £150 a person for two nights, or £175 for three nights; includes return flight from Gatwick or Southampton.
- St Pierre Park Hotel: Rochais, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 1FD (01481 728282). Three-night break, November to April, room and breakfast from £254 a person, which includes return flight from Gatwick, taxi transfer and three days car hire.
- Day and period return boat fares from Guernsey to Sark cost £17.50, child £8.75. Contact Isle of Sark Shipping, White Rock, St Peter Port, Guernsey GY1 2LN (01481 724059). Sailing information line 9036 (local calls only).
- Cycle hire from £3.50 a day from Avenue Cycle Hire or Isle of Sark Shipping. Carriage rides arranged by Isle of Sark Shipping cost £7 a person for two hours.
- Sark Tourist Information (01481 832345).
- Day and period return boat fares to Herm cost £6, child £3. Contact Trident Travel, Kiosk by Weighbridge Clock Tower, St Peter Port, Guernsey (01481 721379).
- For information about staying on Herm (at The White House Hotel, Farm Self Catering Cottages or Seagull Camping), contact the Administration Office, Herm Island, Channel Islands (01481 722377).

An unusual cliffhanger

I was surprised to see a train in the little station at Braye. The guide book is perfectly clear: the only railway in the Channel Islands operates at weekends and Bank Holidays. It does not run on Tuesdays.

In the diminutive booking office the clerk explained that today's train was a private charter but the railway might also be open on Thursday. It depended on the weather. We began to understand that on Alderney, things are done differently.

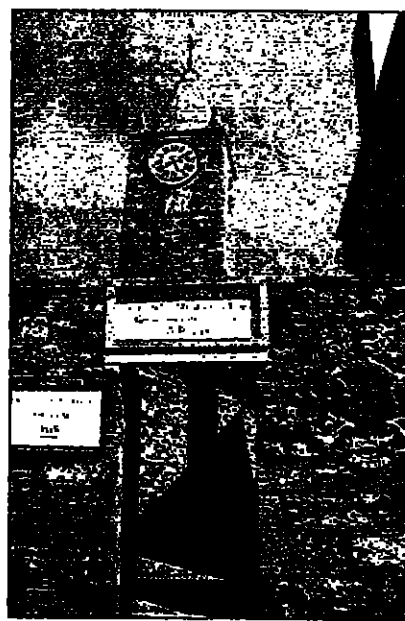
The trip had started differently, too. Out on the Tarmac at Southampton we boarded a little plane with a row of doors down each side. There had to be doors down each side, because there was no gangway; the seats folded forward, and we clambered in right behind the pilot.

"It's just a bus service really," he said. Half an hour later, Alderney popped up over the horizon. From the air it was shaped like a huge elongated skull, its lower jaw formed by the massive Victorian breakwater that dominates the coast at Braye harbour. The story of the breakwater is the story of Alderney itself.

In the middle years of the last century the British Government looked anxiously across the Channel at the massive new French defences at Cherbourg and, to counter the threat, decided to develop Alderney as "the Gibraltar of the Channel". No less than 14 forts were built along Alderney's vulnerable north and east coasts, and work began on a naval harbour planned as the equal of Portland.

The project was a spectacular white elephant. Twenty-five years later the harbour breakwater had grown to nearly a mile in length but, although the fortifications had cost more than £15 million, military opinion judged them to be obsolete. Much of the breakwater was allowed to collapse, and the giant wall now guarding Braye harbour is little more than half its original length.

All this was still in front of us as we touched down at La Grande Blaye. Within the hour we had settled into a charming, spotlessly clean guest house, made friends with our hosts and potted in town to get our bearings. Drinking coffee in the sun-dappled shade of Victoria Street, we debated the merits of visiting the optician (to book for the Alderney bus tour), or McAllister's fish shop, for round-the-island boat tickets. After a leisurely lunch we joined the knot of people gathering by the pontoon at Braye harbour. There's a



Alderney's St Anne Museum

FACT FILE

- There is no regular scheduled ferry service to Alderney. Aurigny Air Services (01481 822609) flies from Southampton: from £81 return, four-night stopover.
- Most hotels and guest houses offer packages. Examples are for low-season breaks including flights, transfers and three nights' B & B: Belle Vue Hotel, The Butes (01481 822844), £188.
- Chez Nous Guest House, Les Venelles (01481 823633), £154.
- Hotel Chez André, Victoria Street, St Anne (01481 822777), £140.
- Alderney Tourism (01481 822994).

general feeling that *Voyager* will leave from somewhere near here; and so it does — eventually. Skipper Brian Markell, deputy second cox of the Alderney lifeboat, runs us across the harbour for a proprietorial look at the sparkling new Trent class lifeboat before heading west through the broken waters of the Swinge towards Burhou Island, uninhabited but

for the little puffs that spill off the rocks for endless fishing trips. There are coastal forts, wreck-sites and the screeching gannet colony on Les Etacs, before we push on up Alderney's southern coast past Telegraph Bay and Cachaliere Pier. All too soon we round Château à l'Etole, pick up our mooring, and wait for the launch to ferry us back to the pontoon.

Sunshine and sea air are good for the appetite, and for a small island Alderney boasts a remarkable number of attractive places to eat. We settled for some hot South African chicken at the Rose and Crown, and fell gratefully into bed.

Voyager had introduced us to Alderney at arm's length, and we spent the next couple of days exploring the island on foot. A good place to start is the Alderney Society's fascinating museum, housed in the former Town School in Le Hurel. In a room given over to the Second World War we soon discovered that the Nazis, like the Victorians, well understood Alderney's strategic location. They occupied the island from July 1940, after the fall of France, and poured enormous resources into strengthening the existing defences and adding still more of their own.

Yet ironically, a hundred years of military endeavour only adds to the island's allure. The old military road ringing the cliffs is now for the most part a peaceful green lane, used by walkers and cyclists to catch the spectacular views. With few exceptions, the surviving German works lie within the older defences or burrowed deep into the granite cliffs; and as for the British forts, Captain Jervois' romantic designs are "more in keeping with the defences of Elizabeth I than those of Victoria".

Nowhere is this more true than at Fort Clonque, an engaging huddle of low towers and massive walls that tumble around their rocky islet south of Clonque Bay. Unlike some of its neighbours this remote westerly fortress, accessible only by a causeway at low water, is not lying in ruins: it has been restored by the Landmark Trust as a holiday home.

And Clonque is Alderney in microcosm: picturesque, remote, steeped in history and carpeted with wild flowers, a tiny island to explore and return to time after time. But above all, delightfully different.

DAVID FOSTER

● The author was a guest at Chez Nous Guest House, Les Venelles, Alderney.

...Stressed-out arrivals leave the Isles of Scilly refreshed while the Isle of Wight has a few surprises

Scilly grins all round



The rain showed no sign of easing up, but as we arrived on the island of Tresco, everyone smiled. Walkers and cyclists we passed dripped in their waterproofs and grinned as if, like the Stepford Wives, they had been given a drug to keep them sweet. Later we learnt the secret: they had.

We had been whisked there on a 70-minute flight from Bristol, a little-known service started last year by the Isles of Scilly Skybus. Once word gets out, this service will reveal the islands to the very people who need them most: landlocked, stressed-out city dwellers from London and the Midlands. It knocks out a difficult trek to reach the Scillies by boat or helicopter.

We boarded the flight at 10.40am and at 1pm had unpacked and were sitting down to a fish lunch in the Island Hotel bar, gazing at wonderful sea views. In between was a thrilling flight in an 18-seat Twin Otter, the pilot and co-pilot working their array of controls in full view of passengers as we potted at 6,000ft, perfect for landscape-watching. We were met, as everyone is, at St Mary's airport and bussed to the quay where *The Firehorn* collected us for the ten-minute trip to Tresco.

The granite Isles of Scilly were once one land mass, the valleys of which were submerged by a still-rising sea, leaving 54 islands, five of which are inhabited and conveniently close to each other. Each has a clean sweep about it, with sparkling white beaches and rugged outcrops caressed by white breakers. On a sunny day the sea turns bright turquoise, looking more like the South Pacific than the most southwestern outpost of England, 28 miles southwest of Land's End.

These islands are reminiscent of Cornwall at the turn of this century and feel remote, with a population of just 2,000. Even though that swells to 5,000 in high season, it is odd to see familiar sights like Lloyds and Barclays banks in Hugh Town, the capital of St Mary's, the largest island, measuring ten miles by three.

Scilly is administered by a council of 21 and is largely owned by the Duchy of Cornwall (since 1337), though Tresco is leased back by Robert Dorrien Smith, whose ancestor Augustus Smith took on the islands in 1834. He was at first hated, and was taken to the western rocks to perish in the rising tide. But his abductors changed their minds, which was just as well since Augustus was responsible for bringing prosperity to Scilly in the mid-1800s.

The most popular local sport is racing gulls — sea-gulling rowing boats with crews of six — and locals use boats and bikes like we use buses or cars, so an island or two can be visited each day. But only St Mary's has cars; the rest rely on a few tractors. So the islands are relatively unpolluted, a blessing for flowers and birds — and people. All this, coupled with the salty, ozone-filled air, is a heady mixture.

If you listen hard you may catch the occasional buzz of a distant boat. Otherwise you will hear only the song of the wild — the raucous cries of gulls and terns providing the bass line to an undiscovered choir of songbirds, accompanied by the wind whispering through a profusion of flowers and by the sea's rhythmic waves.

Crime is virtually unknown here. The only hazards are sea and rocks, and children can run free. So did we, on hired bikes, whizzing around Tresco's concrete roads and mud tracks, taking in beaches and unspoilt countryside, a freshwater lake and scattered civilisation: a post office-cum-café, a shop, an art gallery, a charming



The Gulf Stream encourages exotic plants and ensures a subtropical climate in Tresco's Abbey Gardens

pub refurbished with wood claimed under wrecker's rights after being washed up by the sea, and the estate office which runs the whole island, including 14 self-catering cottages.

Then there is the famous subtropical Abbey Garden, laden with exotic fruits, flowers and scents on south-facing terraces, which benefit from the frost-free, Gulf Stream climate. Within the garden is the Valhalla, a museum displaying splendid carved figureheads and sternplates from some of the ships wrecked around the islands. When we visited, experts from the National Maritime Museum, Greenwich, were repainting and gilding these remarkable relics.

We took a short trip to Bryher, a hillier, less inhabited island than Tresco with a handful of houses and a pleasant hotel, the Hell Bay, and found it was road-mending day despite the lack of cars. Volunteers and a tractor driver shovelled sand from the beach into potholes that had formed in the island's cart-tracks last winter.

Like the rest of Scilly, tourism provides 95 per cent of Tresco's income, and all 120 inhabitants try to ensure the visitor's stay is as stress-free as can be. As we wheeled my punctured bike back to the hire office, a young cyclist stopped, took in the situation, and cycled to ask the office to fetch it. The same helpfulness prevailed at the Island Hotel, a sophisticated beacon of

FACT FILE

■ Tresco: The Island Hotel (01720 422883) offers three nights half board from £341 by boat from Penzance, or £409 by Skybus from Bristol. The New Inn (01720 422844) also offers accommodation.

■ St Mary's: the Atlantic Hotel (01720 422417), £53.50 per person half board.

■ Bryher: Hell Bay Hotel (01720 422876) half board, from £57 pp.

■ Skybus Travel Centre (0345 10 5555) provides a leader on flights to Scilly from Bristol, Exeter, Land's End, Newquay and Plymouth. A short break return from Bristol is £126, a standard return £175. Fares on the Scillonian boat from Penzance are £40-60 depending on season. Helicopter flights from Penzance through British International (01736 63871).

■ Scilly Breaks, Bryher (01720 423239) offer packages to Scilly.

■ The Isles of Scilly Tourist Information Centre, 01720 422536.

luxury (run superbly by manager Ivan Curtis) on the island's north-eastern corner. "People get hooked on the tranquillity here," said Mr Curtis. "They book next year's holiday here as they check out." Our final evening was spent at the Atlantic Hotel, St Mary's,

which has a dining room built out over Hugh Town beach and where the proprietors, Margaret and George Tideman, have enlivened many a holiday with guided tours and talks.

For those seeking a quiet break, these islands are a boon for the soul. Even in the height of summer there is always a deserted beach to discover, a quiet walk, a perfect place to read or just to think. Locals joke that tourists disembark and disappear, not to be seen again until they leave.

At 8am on our second cold and wet morning we set out on a guided birdwatching tour given by Ron Gleadle, a retired doctor. An hour later, as we stood in a howling gale atop a sand dune watching terns dive for sand eels, someone spotted a seal: the seal spotted us and stood on its tail, "bottling" upright in the water to get a better view. As we squelched back to shelter, 13 bedraggled people were grinning foolishly, intimated by the wildlife, the air, the people, the place.

As we flew home, Land's End beneath us seemed to be pointing at the islands as if to say, "Go back." One day, we will.

CHRISTINE WEBB

● The author was the guest of Skybus. The Island Hotel, Tresco, and the Atlantic Hotel.

Going Out: Gardens to Visit, page 14.

Modern art in the dinosaur graveyard

As the final chords of Offenbach's *Can-Can* go high-kicking through the Monterey pines into the night, the Italianate facade of Osborne House flashes in the light of a thunderous firework display. On the lawn before the house, 5,000 people break into delighted applause.

Then, as the musicians of the Bournemouth, Sinfonietta and conductor Richard Studd rise in response to wave farewell, the audience drift away, carrying above their heads hundreds of tiny candle lanterns. Victoria, for whom her consort built Osborne a century and a half ago, would have been amused.

The concert was the highlight of a trip which revealed an Isle of Wight a thousand miles away from the shabby attractions of Sandown and Ryde. In three days I never saw a fish and chip shop, an amusement arcade, a theme park or a burger bar. What I did see was an island of unspoilt villages, near-empty country roads (this at the height of the holiday season), splendid Victorian-gothic villas and rolling downs.

It was its tranquil beauty and gentle climate, together with easy accessibility by rail from London, which first attracted the wealthy and artistic to the island. Tennyson (who bought Farringford, near Freshwater, with money made from *Maud*) was inspired by it, and so were Keats and Thackeray. Dickens wrote six chapters of *David Copperfield* while living at Winterbourne, in the village of Bonchurch. Swinburne, the atheist son of a God-fearing

admiral, was brought up there. (Almost 90 years after his death, islanders still talk of the *frisson* of horror that ran through their upright forebears when it was announced that a man who denied God was to be allowed a last resting place in the grounds of Bonchurch New Church alongside five other members of the family.)

Even Karl Marx took a break from plotting the downfall of capitalism to sample its bourgeois attractions hoping sea breezes would cure a chesty cough. Today, a colony of artists is still at work, many of them centred on the Aafton Gallery, at Totland, where their work is on exhibition. You will not, however, find the creations of Eric Geddis so accessible. In fact, you will miss his remarkable sculptures altogether if you arrive at high tide.

Geddis — a 67-year-old Captain Birdseye local — works on the beaches at



An Eric Geddis sculpture

FACT FILE

■ The author travelled to the Isle of Wight with Wightlink Holidays (01705 820202) and stayed at the George Hotel, Quay Street, Yarmouth, IOW PO41 0PE (01983 760425). Two-night breaks from £171. Also recommended: the Seaview Hotel, Seaview. Two-night breaks, including ferry, from £118. Bookings through Wightlink.

■ Osborne House, East Cowes (01983 200022). Open April to end of October. Admission: adults £6, children £3, OAPs £4.50.

■ Dinosaur Farm Museum (01983 740400). Creature beach sessions are run by the IOW Countryside section. Children £1 (01983 822119).

■ Bay House Café, Beachfront, Bonchurch. Red Lion Pub, Freshwater (01983 754925). New Inn, Shalfleet (01983 531344).

■ Wightlink ferries five-day short break fares from Portsmouth and Lymington from £37.50.

Compton Bay and Fort Victoria, using whatever resources the sea washes up: driftwood, bladderwrack, stone — even the rusted scaffolding which formed part of the island's wartime defences.

Most days, winter and summer, he walks down on to the sands and, in the two to four hours between low and high water, creates a work of art, doomed to be washed away by the rising tide. Beach art is not restricted to the professionals. Geddis worked for two years with the island's countryside section passing on his enthusiasm to young imitators and, on the day I visited, dozens of children were creating boats, castles and fantastic creatures

along the high-water mark. Geddis finds it hard to explain why he specialises in such transient work but it might have something to do with the shifting nature of the island itself, which is being washed away by the sea at the rate of one metre per year.

A mere 50,000 years are left before there are just a few chalky outcrops left sticking out of the Solent, I was told by Steve Hunt, curator of the island's geology museum at Sandown. Hunt is a man who thinks in the long term. Indeed, he spends much of his time recreating for visitors the island as it was 120 million years ago, when it was part of a huge land mass including present-day Europe.

I met him on the beach at Hanover Point, where the petrified remains of giant footprints mark what was once a "dinosaur motorway". Hunt believes that many dinosaurs behaved like grazing cattle, wandering in herds for hundreds of miles according to the seasons. The island is one of these migration routes, perhaps extending as far as present-day Germany.

Since Spielberg's *Jurassic Park* he has seen a surge of interest in things prehistoric, nowhere more than at one of the island's more eccentric attractions, the so-called Dinosaur Farm on the Military Road south of Bournemouth. Here, Barbara Phillips — who must be the only farmer ever to diversify into dinosaurs instead of strawberry teas — presides over the reconstruction of Silt of sauropod found on her land.

Visitors to the farm can watch volunteers and professional palaeontologists at work and can take along any fossils they may have unearthed for identification.

For all its apparent affluence, there are intractable economic problems behind the island's near lawns and pink-washed villas. More than a third of the population is over 60 and, according to government figures, average male wages are 20 per cent below the national average.

Recently the leader of the Lib-Dem council, Morris Barton, made the headlines by calling for a poll on devolution in the hope that a Yes vote might prompt the granting of enterprise zone status and a flood of European subsidies. His proposal has been largely greeted with derision on the streets but business leaders fear the island's difficulties are ignored by Westminster.

DAVID BLUNDELL

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A LUXURY WEEK ON THE NILE

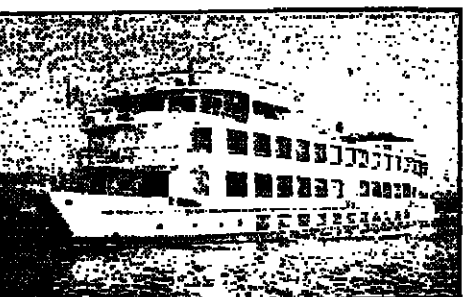
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Libya: A formidable leader has made sure only a privileged few ever see the delights of this neglected land

The treasures that Gaddafi tries to keep for himself

It is dusk in the heart of Tripoli's bustling old city and the solitary waiter in a wonderful ramshackle teahouse is serving the usual blend of heavily sugared mint tea in filthy glasses. Around him in the small courtyard, beneath the mid-19th century clock tower, which keeps watch over the medina, half-clad metalmiths run to and fro in cramped workshops.

Unperturbed by this frantic activity, the waiter suggests a smouldering *shisha* pipe (hubbly-bubbly) heaped with potent apple tobacco as a suitable complement to the impossibly sweet tea.

My thoughts float away with the thick smoke. This is an ideal spot to retreat after a day's wandering through the souk under an intense sun with summer temperatures as high as 40C. Visiting the old city in 1955, the art historian Bernard Berenson was enthralled: "Neither in the souks of Cairo or of Aleppo or of Damascus have I had such an impression of exotic Orient and remoteness from the West as in the souk here."

Tucked away in a forgotten teahouse one can contemplate life without attracting any of the unwanted attention sometimes encountered in neighbouring Tunisia, Egypt and Morocco where tourists are



Exotic and remote: the souk entrance in Tripoli's old city

frequently regarded as potential prey. Libyans are remarkably courteous and hospitable. The occasional lingering stare is the most intrusive reminder that one is a visitor.

No one throws himself at you offering his services as a guide to the old city or the harbour. The Middle Eastern salesman's familiar ploy of "Come here, my friend... I give you special price" is nowhere to be found.

In a country which receives so few non-Arab visitors this comes as something of a surprise and it means you can saunter through some of Lib-

ya's most spectacular treasures undisturbed. Libya has hardly been considered an ideal holiday destination since Gaddafi's 1969 revolution. Apart from the handful of European and Japanese businessmen who still visit Tripoli, one is frequently the only foreigner at large.

Gaddafi's regime has refused to throw its arms open to the non-Arab world and is hardly renowned for its accessibility. Since the 1992 United Nations embargo on flights in and out of the country, options are limited. Defiant isolationism it may be on Gaddafi's part, but whatever the economic and political costs to Libya, the benefits of this closed-door policy to visitors are immense.

A colossal propaganda portrait of Libya's self-styled revolutionary leader and maverick, Al Qaid Muammar Al Gaddafi, towering over the Libyan side of the border concourse is the first greeting for the unsuspecting visitor arriving from Tunisia.

My first direct experience of this idiosyncratic thorn in the West's side is a powerful one. Propaganda portraits are everywhere in Tripoli and throughout the country — along roadsides, on desks, in offices, on buildings.

The images may be predictable and caricatured — the desert warrior in billowing white robes (Gaddafi has a great penchant for the Sahara) shaking his fist in defiance and scorn at American fighter planes streaming over Tripoli, or posing in sunglasses in front of huge irrigation pipes unfurling mighty waters (the Great Man-made River Project) — but for sheer size they are invariably impressive.

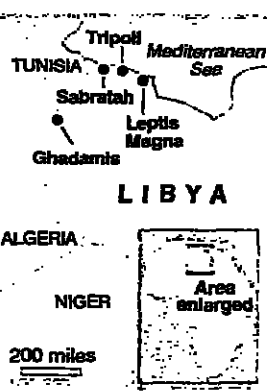
But Libya's greatest treasures are the cities of Tripoli (the least spectacular), Leptis Magna and Sabratha, which once made up *Provincia Tripolitania*, the province of the three cities created in eastern Africa by the Emperor Diocletian in AD 284.

What makes Sabratha and Leptis so exciting is the combination of marvellously preserved ancient sites just yards from a shimmering Mediterranean sea with an almost total lack of visitors. Both are stunning historical sites within easy striking distance of the capital for a day's visit.

Bernard Berenson's wife wrote to her husband: "Sabratha would have enchanted you. The theatre and amphitheatre on the golden brown rocks so close to the sea — and what a sea! The beautiful grounds laid out before the museum and the



The head of Nereides at Leptis Magna, one of the three cities created by the Emperor Diocletian in AD 284



Libya

Area enlarged

200 miles

LIBYA

ALGERIA

NIGER

200 miles

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Snake charmers in the great square in Marrakech, one of the autumn destinations from Cadogan Holidays, which starts at £377

The road to Morocco

Breaks in the city

THREE night breaks to Marrakech cost £377 from Cadogan Holidays (01703 332661) in early October, one of the best months to visit the most dramatic of Morocco's cities and the foothills of the Atlas Mountains. The break is based on the four-star Safir Saha Hotel within walking distance of the medina and the great square. Prices include half board, scheduled flights and private transfers.

Shopping Canada dry: Underrated Toronto is the new short break destinations for shopaholics where Cresta Holidays (0161-927 7000) offer breaks of two to seven nights, a three night November break costing £324 for return flight and B&B.

Shoppers who can face the 12-14 hour flight each way can also grab a four night break in Hong Kong in October with Premier Holidays (01223 516677) for £746 each, flights and room only.

Palma palace: The architecture, shopping and eating in Majorca's capital Palma can rate alongside any city in Europe. Castaways (01737 812255) offer three night midweek B&B breaks at the Hotel Palacio Ca Sa Galesa, an exquisite little 17th century palace by the cathedral in the medieval quarter, for £463 including flights.

Norway jaunt: A three-day, four-night tour "Essential Norway" departs every Saturday during September and October. The tour includes visits to Oslo and Bergen, with hotel accommodation in each, a night and a day on a Norwegian Coastal Voyage steamer, all with breakfast. The cost from the Scandinavian Travel Service (0171-930 6666) is £379 and includes flights.

Prague special: A special departure of the Orient Express on October 2-6 from Venice to London via Vienna, Prague and Paris is available from Osprey Holidays (0171-799 5550), with a two day stopover in Prague. The full trip with outbound flight to Venice costs £1,299 with full board on the

JILL CRAWSHAW'S TRAVEL TIPS

train and B&B in Prague, but separate sections of the journey with flights and accommodation in the other cities, can also be booked.

Concorde treat: Two, three and four day breaks to Cairo including sightseeing, and optional excursions to Luxor cost from £1,250 from Goodwood Travel (01227 763336). Five-day New York breaks staying at the Plaza Hotel in early December cost £1,880 one way. A six-day extravaganza to Jordan, flying by Royal Jordanian Airlines, with visits to Petra, Jerash, a Dead Sea barbecue and a trip on the steam-hauled train Lawrence of Arabia to a desert banquet, and back by Concorde costs £1,995 in early October.

Bottoms up

STAYING as private guests at Chateau Lascombe (Margaux 2ème Cru Classe), not normally open to the public, holidaymakers on Arblaster and Clarke's (01730 893344) five day wine seminar have a short wine tasting lesson at the Chateau each day before departing on visits, lunches and dinners to other famous châteaux in Medoc, Graves, St Emilion and Sauternes; these include Chateau Latour and Chateau d'Yquem. Leading wine experts accompany tours and the price of £1,249 covers flights, most meals, wine, and tastings.

Fun guys

GOURMET weekends — where guests learn to recognise and cook some of the many varieties of mushrooms — are to be found in the French woodlands — are available every weekend from the end of September and throughout October, from Unicorn Holidays (01582 834400). The breaks, based at Le Manoir du Lys in Normandy, a converted 13th century manor house, include forest walks under expert supervision to gather the mushrooms, plus lessons from the hotel's chef on how best to prepare them. There is also a visit to a local market to stock up on produce for the weekend's gourmet highlights. The two night full board break costs £326 including car ferry.

Forest trail

SHERPA Expeditions (0181-577 2717) is offering a new independent four-night walk in the Black Forest, using the meticulously well-marked paths that lead the walker from one cuckoo clock village to the next.

The company provides detailed maps and route notes, and pre-booked half board hotel accommodation. Baggage travels separately. The cost of £595 includes return scheduled flights, and the break can be taken until the end of October.

On the menu

THREE and four day cookery courses at the four star chateau hotel La Chenevière involve early morning forays to the quayside at Port-en-Bessin for a lesson in selecting the best fish, before preparing seafood dishes, and other Norman delights that make lavish use of apples and Calvados. The town of Bayeux and the D-Day beaches are nearby.

A three-night B&B stay from Travelscene (0181-427 8800) costs £191 including car ferry. The cookery course is an extra £185.

Trojan treasure

HEINRICH SCHLIEMANN'S Treasure of Troy on exhibition in Moscow's Pushkin Museum — some 259 exhibits of gold, silver and bronze artefacts, and what Schliemann himself believed to be Helen of Troy's jewels — are the highlight of Cox & King's (0171-873 5000) three night break in Moscow. The price is £760 for flights, B&B, two Pushkin visits and tours of the city.

Village venture

THREE night fly-drive weekends on the Catalan coast, one of the Mediterranean's most unspoilt and beautiful coasts are offered in Intravels' (01653 628811) shortbreak brochure, based either on the traditional British favourite, the Hotel Aiguablava at Aiguablava (from £398) or the Hotel Llevant at Llafranc (from £345) both

half board. A hire car is included in the price to explore the hilltop villages such as Pals or Peratallada, the ruins of Ampurias, Dalí's Museum at Figueras, or his old home at Port Lligat near Cadaques.

Cold comfort

FIVE-NIGHT activity holidays in a small fishing village just south of the Arctic Circle are offered by Arctic Experience (01737 218800), with a Jeep-Safari, a short hike to the top of Husavik Mountain, a Fishing Boat Trip, a Cross-Country Safari, Trout Fishing (the chef will cook your catch for dinner) and a Viking evening with an Icelandic storyteller.

The trips run from September 1996 to May 1997, and cost from £452 including flights, transfers and B&B hotel accommodation.

Disney Bonfire

A BROCHURE dedicated to Disneyland Paris from coach holiday specialists Leger (01709 839839) includes a Bonfire Night Spectacular departing on November 4, costing £115 per person with two sharing; children 2-11 £25 each and 12-16 £69 each. The price covers return coach travel from 300 pick-up points in England and Wales, two nights on site at the Hotel Santa Fe, day pass to Disneyland with the fireworks and bonfire plus a visit to Paris.

Family fun

HALF-TERM breaks for families at Funtoscopia, the Park of the Moving Image, near Poitiers are offered by VFB Holidays (01242 240310), from October 28 to 31. The price of £249 per adult (half price for children sharing parents' accommodation) includes Eurostar to Lille, TGV Express from Lille to Poitiers, three nights B&B and two days entry passes.

Spanish colour

SPANISH specialists Mundi Color (0171 828 6021) offer weekends in Santiago de Compostela for (£295); the medieval university gem, Salamanca (£410 including car hire); Valencia (£367) and green Spain's Oviedo in Asturias (£348). All prices include three nights B&B and flights.

How to keep the little horrors happy

Late summer and Paris is full of tight-jawed parents trailed by whining kids. No amount of themed T-shirts and ice cream can stem the constant demands and stress levels peak dangerously. Recently, a family with three children arrived to stay at our apartment after a day of sightseeing. By the time the children had been put to bed in sleeping bags on the floor and the travel cot it was 9pm. The husband collapsed into a deep sleep and the wife burst into tears. To avoid such calamities, here is a guide to surviving Paris with children. First, military precision is required in planning the day. Of course they want to climb the Eiffel Tower, but insist they do it in the evening when there are no long, hot queues of other people's horrible offspring, and the view is more spectacular.

Children may also demand Notre Dame Cathedral following the success of the Hunchback cartoon, but be warned that tourist levels are at such a height it has been renamed Notre Disney by the locals. A boat trip on the Seine which passes the cathedral is perhaps less trying. A visit to a park is essential, since you can sit still in a tree-shaded café while they run around screaming. The Jardin de Tuileries is central, but expensive at this time of year since it contains a funfair until the end of the month.

With a big wheel (which actually has splendid views over the rooftops), water fountains, dogdoms, the lot. More civilised is the boating pond, where wooden toy yachts can be rented for a few francs, and pushed off with sticks. You cannot go wrong with the Jardin de Luxembourg, whatever age the child. There is a fenced playground for the under-sixes near the orangerie. It has potted palm trees, four sandpits, two paddling pools and plenty of benches. Later, you can take them to see the four o'clock performance of the "Guignols", a Punch and Judy-style show.

For older children, 10F gives entry to the best adventure playground in Paris, with dangerous-looking climbing frames and rope swings. This is within watching distance of the Luxembourg café and a cold beer. Another tip is

the Musée Rodin, which has exquisite formal gardens behind the private mansion which now houses the sculpture. Mothers of France (anyone with young children or a pram) get in free to the garden, which is full of Rodin sculptures, including the *Burghers of Calais* and *The Thinker*.

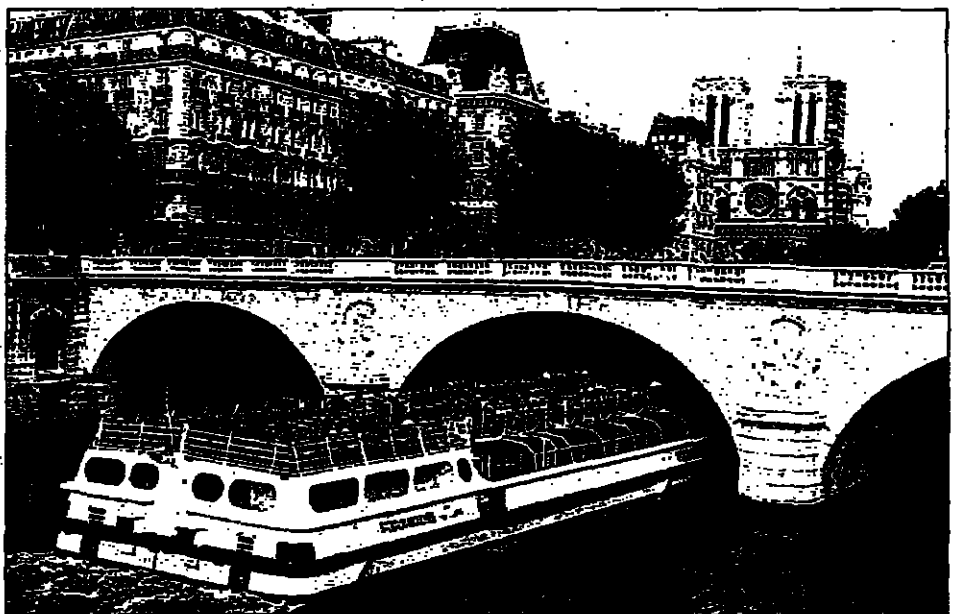
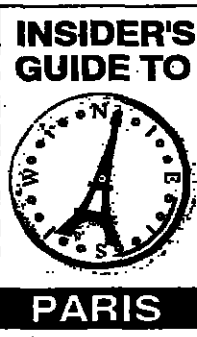
Even small children seem to love the statues, and there are two sandpits at the end of the garden when interest wanes. If you have a car, the Bois de Boulogne is only half an hour from the centre of Paris. The woods are perfect for older children — boats, horses and bicycles can be rented by the hour — and there is the Jardin d'Acclimation for the younger ones which is also a short walk from Métro Sablons.

Jardin, a strange combination of a zoo, funfair and green picnic spot, costs a mere 10 francs for hours of entertainment. There is a mini-farm, with pigs, goats, sheep, donkeys and hens. There is a partial zoo, with brown bears, monkeys and deer, and there are rides suitable for small children. A miniature railway goes round the entire park, and on certain days — phone to check — there are workshops for children.

There are two solutions to the museum problem. One is to aim for a small child's nap-time, but be warned that the stairs of the Louvre and the Musée d'Orsay could be more pram-friendly. If you have older children, there are daily painting and design workshops in summer at The Louvre and the Pompidou Centre. Even though they are in French, much of the work is practical — making small models, drawings or paintings — and they usually include a short tour of one aspect of the collection. The parents can then sneak off for an hour and a half of uninterrupted viewing.

KATE MUIR

• Jardin d'Acclimation, Bois de Boulogne, 10th, (40 67 90 80). Ateliers (workshops) pour enfants: Louvre, for children six to 15, 2.15pm daily in summer, 28F, reservations (40 20 52 63).
• Pompidou Centre, design workshop for children six to 12, 2.30pm daily in summer, Wednesday and Saturday in term-time, 30F (includes adult ticket), (44 78 12 33).



A boat ride past Notre Dame (or Notre Disney) is far less stressful than visiting

Answers from page 23

ZENDALLET
(a) In Venice (18th century), a large square wooden shawl, usually black, folded triangularly and worn over the head or the shoulders. Also, a long black piece of cloth falling from the hood of a gondola into the water. "A zendalilet is not part of compulsory uniform at Bolton School Girls' Division."

YARK
(a) A smart blow or stroke, as of a whip or rod, or of a heavy

body falling; a lash; also the sound of such a blow; the crack of a whip; a thud. YARK could also be used. Also, the act of lashing out with the heels. Also used as a term for bootmaking (15th century). Hogg, "Perils of Man", 1822: "They attacked each other, yark for yark."

ZYMURGY
(a) The practice or art of fermentation, as in wine-making, brewing, distilling etc. Greek *zume* meaning yeast. "Students are forbidden from practising zymurgy on

the premises of Bolton School Girls' Division."

VILL
(a) A collection of villages around a city. Ville, ville, ville meaning town or country house. Anglo-Saxon: A territorial unit or division under the feudal system, consisting of a number of houses with their adjacent lands, having a common organisation. Could also mean a single village or a villa or a form of wall. "Bolton is too large a place to merit being called a vill."

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Dec 4, 11, 18, 25	£569
1997 Jan 1, 8, 15, 22, 29	£499
Feb 5, 12, 19, 26	£499
Mar 5, 12, 19, 26	£569
Single supplement	£125
Price includes:	
Return flights, transfers, sightseeing with lunch as specified, Peking Duck feast, Mongolian Hot Pot, twin sharing hotel with buffet breakfast, B-Breakfast, L-Lunch, D-Dinner	
Price excludes:	
Meals and sightseeing not listed, visa fee £24, travel insurance £30 (compulsory), UK air passenger duty £10, Beijing departure tax approx. £7, tips.	
Optional tours	
2 nights Chengde	£98
2 nights Xian	£249
(Home of the Terracotta Warriors)	

The holiday fraudsters

Harvey Elliott on bogus health insurance bills

Charter flights filled with bronzed holidaymakers are streaming back into Britain this weekend, tour operators are gleefully counting their profits after a near record year — and travel insurance companies are hoping they will be able to spot at least some of the 30,000 bogus claims which they confidently expect to be made by less scrupulous customers.

Airlines, tour operators and travel agents have long learnt to look out for the lost instamatic camera which miraculously becomes a top of the range professional Nikon on a claim form. And it is strange how a shell suit can turn into an expensive Chester Barrie when it gets lost.

But now a new type of fraud is growing fast — medical claims. According to the Association of British Insurers around 600,000 people fell ill while abroad this summer and although the vast majority of claims are genuine the few that are not are now so serious that they have launched a

detailed investigation to try to weed them out. A holidaymaker who claimed for the cost of an operation to remove his appendix was found to have done so 16 times before. A woman submitted five claims in 18 months for the loss of sight in her left eye. It had been caused, she said, by a collision in a swimming pool, falling off a chair and being attacked in Iran.

One claim for medical treatment and convalescence in a West African hospital was supported by bills from the local brothel. And a woman who had a heart attack in India was apparently treated in a hospital that had been submerged when a dam burst five years before. Genuine claimants are more likely to have an accident abroad than an upset stomach according to a new survey by Columbus

CORRECTION
THE Skyrail mentioned in a travel article on Australia (Weekend, August 24) is at Cairns, not Townsville.

Haven't been there? Haven't done it?

Haven't lived!

Breakaway to Iceland — not a lot of ice, just great fun, wild scenery, wildlife, awesome atmosphere, thundering waterfalls, strange geysers, fresh air, warm volcanoes, hot blue bathing Lagoon, hotter nightlife in Reykjavik — Iceland's colourful charismatic capital. Scheduled flights only 2½ hours from:

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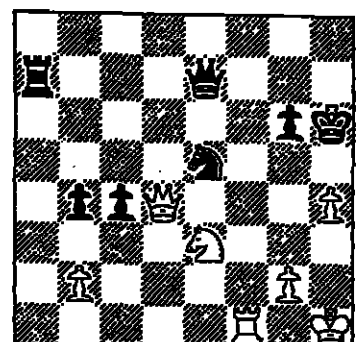
CHESS

by Raymond Keene

OVER the summer, the daily Winning Move puzzle and the published game at weekends have continued to stimulate intense reader discussion.

All readers whose queries are published receive a complimentary six-month subscription to the *British Chess Magazine*, and everyone who writes in with a query receives a free issue of the magazine.

This week and next I propose to deal with six of the most controversial positions.



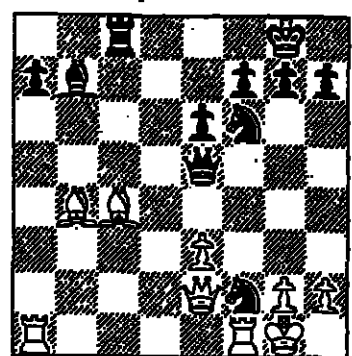
White to play. This position is from the game Karpov-Nunn, Wijk aan Zee, 1993. White has managed to expose the black king. What tactic did he now use to finish off the game?

The position appeared in this column on July 6. The solution given was the straightforward 1. Qxg5 and if 1... Qxg5 2. Ng4+ and White emerges a piece ahead.

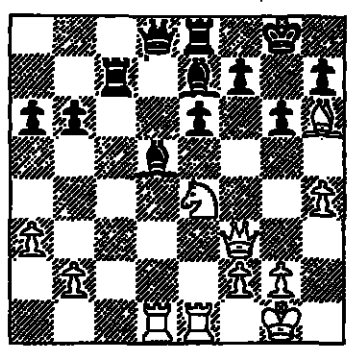
However, Stanley Hall of Lancashire points out the interesting alternative 1. Rf5, attacking Black's knight. If now 1... gxf5 2. Nxf5+ winning Black's queen is the clever point of Mr Hall's proposal, while if Black tries 1... Nf7, White has an attractive win with 2. Rxf7 Qxf7 3. Qh8+ Qh7 4. Ng4+ Kh5 5. Nf6+ and the Black queen is lost. However, Black can defend his knight with 1... Ra5, after which White has nothing better than 2. Rxe5 followed by Ng4+ winning a piece, much as Karpov did in the game. So, although imaginative, Mr Hall's idea is not really an improvement on the solution found by the Fide world champion.

The next position arose in the game Lautier-Piket, Amsterdam

1996. It was published in the daily column on April 9.



Black has just sacrificed a knight on f2 which White now captured with 1. Qxg2, but after 1... Rxc6, he went swiftly downhill. Peter Wylie of Devon suggests an alternative defence with 1. Ra5 and after 1... Qe4, 2. Rxf2. However after 2... Rxc6, Black has two pawns for the exchange and maintains a powerful initiative.

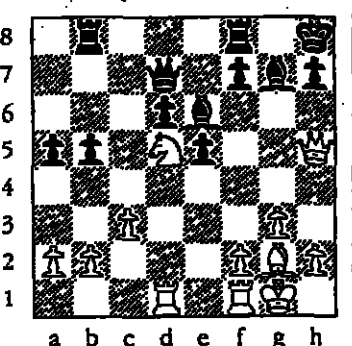


White to play. This position is a variation from the game Kamsky-Short, Candidates, Linares 1994. In this quick defeat of Nigel Short, Kamsky demonstrated his excellent tactical vision. How did he plan to conclude from this position (originally published on July 1)?

Solution: 1. Rxd5 exd5 (1... Qxd5 2. Nf6+ Bxf6 3. Qxf6 and mate follows) 2. Nf6+ Bxf6 3. Qxf6+ Qxf6 4. Qd6, and the mate threat on g7 is again decisive.

After 1. Rxd5 exd5 2. Nf6+ Black could try 2... Kh8 as pointed out by Martin Haworth of Surrey. Mr Haworth also points out the fine refutation of this try: 3. Nxe8 Qxe8 4. Qf6+ Bxf6 5. Rxe8 mate.

Last week's winners: D Vickery, Farm Rd, Chatham; R Taylor, Abbeymead, Gloucester; A O'Flea, Sherre, Surrey.



a b c d e f g h

READERS are invited to write an amusing caption for the cartoon (right), from *The Strand Magazine* (reproduced with permission from Westminster Libraries, Sherlock Holmes Collection, Marylebone Library).

The cartoon will be printed again next week on the Games page with a caption selected from those submitted.

Send caption suggestions on a postcard with your name and address to: Strand Caption (15), Weekend Games Page, The Times, 1 Pennington Street, London E1 9KN.

The Editor's decision is final. The closing date for entries is Wednesday, September 4.

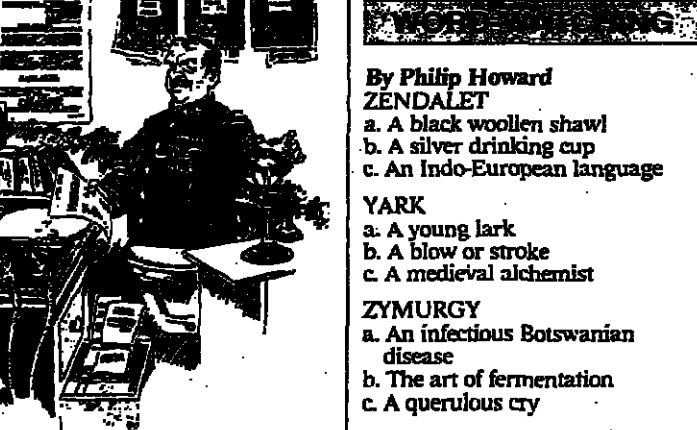


"Now if you are who you say, where is your identity card, Mr Howard?"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P.A. Lyon of Wokington, Cumbria



EVERY WINNER IN THE DAYS EVENTS RECEIVED AN OVALION OF CHEERING AND BATTING OF PLATES AND CUPS



"Now if you are who you say, where is your identity card, Mr Howard?"

The winning caption for last week's cartoon (above) was submitted by P.A. Lyon of Wokington, Cumbria

By Philip Howard

ZENDALET
a. A black woolen shawl
b. A silver drinking cup
c. An Indo-European language

YARK
a. A young lark
b. A blow or stroke
c. A medieval alchemist

ZYMURGY
a. An infectious Botswana disease
b. The art of fermentation
c. A querulous cry

VILL
a. A three month-old sheep
b. A small, unoccupied space
c. A collection of villages

Answers on page 21

by Robert Sheehan

YOU MAY be familiar with this position. As East you are defending a No-Trump contract.

4 led 73 AQ5

It is usually correct to play the queen on the first round, rather than the ace, particularly if you have most of the defence's high cards. If your partner has the king, it makes no difference what you do. If the declarer has the king, playing the queen smoothly prevents him from holding up - if he ducks he risks making no tricks in the suit if West has the ace. But after he takes the king the defence can later run the suit if West started with hoox.

Now try a more difficult version. As East, how would you plan the defence, after this bidding (Dealer North, rubber bridge):

W N E S
Pass 1NT Pass 2NT
Pass 3NT All Pass

This is what you see:

♠A842
♥753
♦AQ52
♣KJ2

♠QJ9
♥AJ10
♦K4
♣Q9643

Contract: 3NT by South
Lead: the four of hearts

The most West can have in high cards is two points, as South is marked with 11 or 12 for his 2NT bid. By playing the ten of hearts at trick one you can keep communication between the defenders if West's hearts are headed by the queen.

Say you manage this. The declarer wins with the king and surprisingly returns a heart; West plays the two, thus showing he started with five. What's going on?

It appears that the declarer is hoping that West will cash his hearts, putting you to two inconvenient discards. You must win the heart with the ace, or else the suit will be blocked. What now?

You can't really do anything except return your third heart. But before you do so you plan your two discards. You let go a low diamond and a club on the fourth and fifth hearts. Dummy discards a card in each suit, and declarer a spade and a club. When West plays a diamond after cashing his hearts, the declarer fineses so the contract goes one off. The full deal:

♠A842
♥753
♦AQ52
♣KJ2

When this hand was played, East was Howard Cohen, and he defended exactly as I describe above. Notice what would have happened if East had played the ace at trick one and continued hearts. Declarer would win the third round, and then subsequently take finesses in the minors into East. All the defence would make is two hearts and two tricks in the minors.

by Tim Wapshott



With *Paperopolis* you can select, print and construct hundreds of paper toys

the pond to call up 20 or so swans and bird varieties, the circus for elephants and so on. Wherever you go, Ted pops up - offering tips but more often to tell corny jokes.

Once selected, the toys can be printed in black-and-white ready for cutting, folding and assembly. Individual instructions for each selection can also be printed but, illogically and irritatingly,

cannot be previewed on screen. The sound effect jingles accompanying the printing process are looped and tend to grate, with the sole exception of the uplifting twitterings in the bird zones. Each toy is colour-coded to show its difficulty rating; the easiest are green and the toughest are red. Though intended for children aged eight and over, able younger children will also have fun with the less tricky models. *Paperopolis* comes on dual-format Mac and PC CD-Rom.

Staying with paper issues, released next week is the Penguin Hutchinson Reference Library, combining the works of seven British reference titles on one CD-Rom: the *Longman Dictionary of the English Language*, *Hutchinson Concise Encyclopedia*, *Roger's Thesaurus*, *Usage and Abuse*, *The New Penguin Dictionary of Quotations*, compact edition of the *Chronology of World History* and the *Helicon Book of Days*.

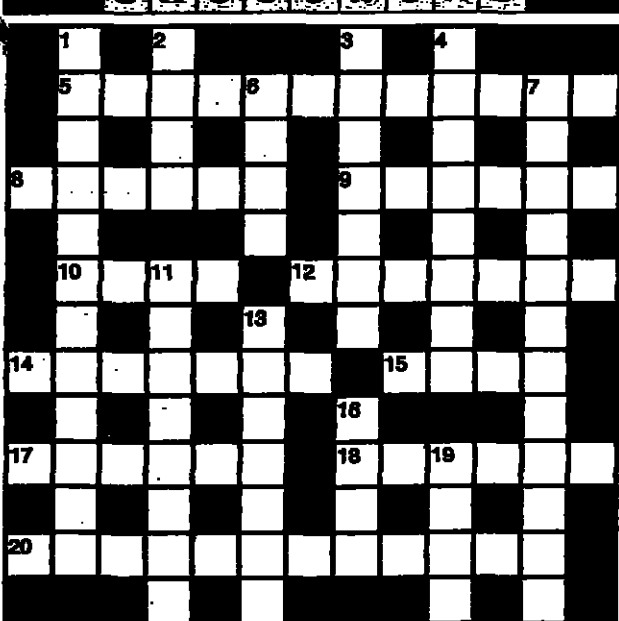
This is a study aid for all the family, packed with sufficient words, events and minutiae to make homework essays or after-

dinner speeches sparkle. Searches can be made through individual books or across all books, and cross-reference links allow you to skip easily between titles.

Though I have never been a great fan of the full version of the Hutchinson interactive encyclopedia, the edition here is streamlined - stripped of cumbersome video and sound snippets - and delivers succinct information with lightning speed. It also includes more than 750 illustrations. The other language books are equally reliable and the dictionary of quotations includes many out-of-the-ordinary gems.

The *Book of Days* makes for an engrossing read any time. For example, today's the day when: the body of Mary Ann "Polly" Nichols, the first victim of Jack the Ripper, was found in Buck's Row in 1888; Coca-Cola first went on sale in 1900; and the film director John Ford died in 1973. There are several other general CD-Rom study book compilations on the market, most obviously Microsoft's *Bookshelf*, but this is the only one of its kind with completely UK content - including, for a change, English rather than American spellings.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 875

- ACROSS
- Spasm of overused hand (7,5)
 - Membrane at back of eye (6)
 - Promise; convince (6)
 - One committed to assist (4)
 - Greet with praise (7)
 - Bring up and instruct (7)
 - Self-righteous person (4)
 - Plant grains (6)
 - Alter (6)
 - Something sticking out (12)
- DOWN
- Sugar/vinegar etc (Chinese) sauce (5-3-4)
 - Flightless bird; a fruit (4)
 - Sideways (suspicious look) (7)
 - Eg Sumo fighter (8)
 - Formal test (4)
 - Hangover (slang) (7,5)
 - Neighbourhood (8)
 - Remain loyal to; refuse to intervene (5,2)
 - Khayyam, Rubaiyat author (4)
 - Sand drift (4)

SOLUTION TO NO 874

ACROSS: 6 Paucity 7 Deal 9 Sheet 10 Holster 11 Win on points 14 Punctilious 17 Chinwag 19 Chile 21 Eject 22 Tipster

DOWN: 1 Luke 2 Distinct 3 Hyphen 4 Idol 5 Hastings 6 Push 8 Thrush 11 Winnipeg 12 Outscope 13 Specie 15 Legate 16 Fear 18 Want 20 Iota

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The key to this puzzle is a certain word, to be discovered and written below the grid. An unusual feature of this word is shared fully by the unclued lights and in part by special words appearing in certain clues, one in each. At first, all lights are entered normally, but those whose clues have no special words must subsequently be modified. The problem to be solved is spelt out by the parts of the special words corresponding to the crucial element of the keyword, which is involved as a whole. (Solvers concerned about discrimination based on colour should consider the first few letters of each relevant clue.) The final diagram should contain three blank squares.

- Across
- Extremes of inswing are seen on pitch, opener getting duck - it's regularly under water! (5)
 - Archaic decline, turning tail - preceding are properties of logicians (6)
 - Flights to westwards: it achieves maximal height over a large area of ocean (5)
 - After tea, goat-god leaves old-fashioned cissy for hunt (5)
 - To European, central Silesia is nothing but backward - it's hard, subsisting on horse joints (7)
 - A white patch on the nose points to instant pimple, primarily (4)
 - Sidney, half-cut (doubly so), nestles diminutive girl that's 'come out' (6)
 - Liberated, keeping men out? It's mistaken essential nature of females (5)
 - Owl's beginning to increase in confidence, having squatted for rustics (7)
 - Monkeys chatter - it absorbs audience still, 'Taps' commercial (7)
 - Obscure outpost of Empire gets Foreign Office involved in British volte-face (5)
 - Birds up north behaved strangely at first, circling square (6)
 - Emblems are not bad for generations (4)
 - Soulless Karma Sutra - "sheathe Part A with Part B" - creates storm out East (7)
 - Lead weight causes nasty bump, catching capital extremity (5)
 - Scottish region where it's supposed that person is

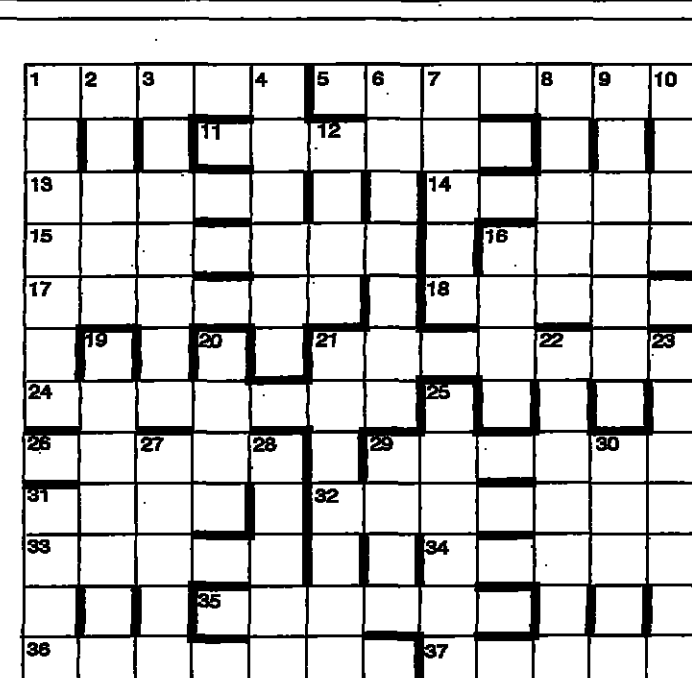
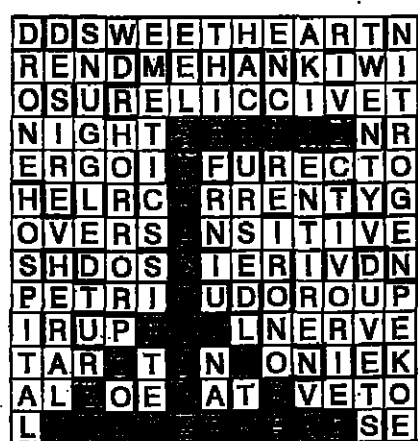
Solution to No 3370: Endgame by Charybdis

The puzzle illustrates a game of Hangman. The solutions drone (B), sweetheart (E), nitrogen (N), recto (R), hospital (H), current (I) and pekee (P) gave the position of most letters in the phrase TRINE TO THE NUBBING CHEAT (q.v.). The letters D, Q, P, L and S are not in this phrase so form part of the scaffold, although L and S, not being "answers", were not required shading.

The winner is F.P.N. Lake, of Ickford, Buckinghamshire. The two runners-up are D.A. Reid, of Dorking, Surrey, and Stephen J. Smith, of Kelvedon, Essex.

No 3373: MA by Law

- cranky and foot of polypod is fluted in small measure (5)
- 35 Tribes in National Theatre wearing suits (6)
- 37 Dernier cri is to abandon much admired figure and holy person, turning to fools (5)
- Down
- It's humdrum, replacing pick-up with second magnetic unit (5)
 - Airmail envelope appears after one that's taken by ship? That's very deep (7)
 - Playboy, given this source of American power, possibly contrives to be up to loyalty (6)
 - Alert wayward with letter about insects (7)
 - A new version of "into shape" might be 'instills hope and current bit of knowledge' (5)
 - Showbiz enthusiast given hint of knuckle sandwiches left side (5)
 - Eventually, xanthopsia can involve tapetal enervation, despite initially having provided stimulation (7)
 - Countryman's to boil young sea-trout in rustic manner, having retired (4)
 - End of downbow, with top three strings of violin aquiver, is expressive of dread (4)
 - It's acceptable briefly to display liveliness in the land of the heather (4)
 - Intwine geebung leaves? No good - birds fly off; but their associates find it has a cohesive effect (7)
 - Asians are also unsound (4)
 - Large chest showing biological arrangement left out anemone, being short of a measure of space (7)
 - Beginning's quiet, with discordant flutes ensuing - it's detestable (7)
 - Having borne heavy load in Scotland, widowed human female has married superior English Lord (6)
 - Scot with standard rent in bravura effect's reformed core (5)
 - New member of society's upset after soldier taunted (5)
 - Ballad extract displays no predominance of poet - he's insignificant (4)
 - Limeliter performer eventually getting upset, providing entertainment for nothing (5)
 - Engine housing placed on trestle - it has no feet (4)



LISTENER CROSSWORD No 3373

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THE TIMES SATURDAY AUGUST 31 1996

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Best results since *Times* table began — but no state school makes top 20

The St Pauls' A team does it again

By JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

THE 88 GCSE candidates at St Paul's Girls' School, in West London, achieved the best score since *The Times* table first appeared four years ago, returning the school to top place.

Almost nine out of ten of the Paulinas' entries achieved at least an A grade, more than half of them A stars. Janet Gough, the High Mistress, said: "It is tremendous news. The girls deserve every possible congratulation."

The school, where fees are £6,000 a year, topped *The Times* table in 1993 and has never been out of the first three places. Miss Gough said: "We certainly do not feel that nothing up

top results in public examinations is the be all and end of education, particularly at 16. But our results have been pretty consistent."

There is intense competition for the 615 places at St Paul's Girls' School, which has no boarders. Most girls enter at the age of 11, but 20 places are reserved for entry to the sixth form.

Kendrick Girls' School, in Reading, was the highest-placed state school, at 25th. Eight state schools appear in the top 50.

Marsha Elms, the head teacher, said she had mixed feelings about the achievement. "In many ways I wish we did not have league tables because they can be so misleading. A few pupils can make an enormous amount of difference. However,

when you do come out on the top, one has to be delighted and pleased for the girls and the staff."

Last year's top school, Withington Girls' School, in Manchester, slipped to fourth place in the table, but still saw more than 40 per cent of its entries awarded A stars, as did Wychcombe Abbey School, in High Wycombe, and King Edward VI High School for Girls, in Birmingham.

This first full comparison of this summer's GCSE results covers more than 600 schools, the largest number in the four years in which *The Times* table has been published.

Almost a quarter are state schools, most of them selective. Comprehensive schools are at a disadvantage in all examination tables but the ab-

sence of selection shows up particularly at GCSE.

Schools are ranked on the proportion of A and A* grades. This measure puts a premium on excellence and distinguishes between the performance of the large number of schools with GCSE candidates. More state schools than last year appear in the table, but none has broken into the top 20. Only 14 are in the top 100.

Single-sex schools again dominated the ranking. Lancaster Royal Grammar School was the top state boys' school, while Colyton Grammar School, in Colyton, Devon, was the highest-placed mixed school in the state sector, at 110th. Independent schools' results again rose faster than

those in the state sector. At seven independent schools, every entry was awarded at least a C grade, the equivalent of the old O-level pass.

Most independent schools' results are supplied by the Independent Schools' Information Service. State schools' scores were collected in a *Times* survey, which may omit some schools. Not all schools could be contacted and some head teachers prefer not to submit their results.

Scottish schools are not included because of their different examination system. Schools or colleges with fewer than 20 pupils sitting GCSEs were also excluded.

Compiled by Jennifer d'Andrea, Christina Asare Owusu, Christopher Broadhurst and Peter Shaw.



Jubilant two Paulinas last week with plenty to celebrate

State schools in bold type	No of pupils	% of A*	% of all grades A-A*
1 St Paul's Girls' Sch, London (G)	88	45.4	88.2
2 Wycombe Abbey Sch, High Wycombe (G)	77	45.4	87.8
3 King Edward VI Sch for Girls, Birmingham (G)	77	45.4	87.8
4 Withington Girls' Sch, Manchester (G)	74	45.4	86.0
5 North London Collegiate Sch, Edgware (G)	102	37.1	82.5
6 Winchester Coll, Winchester (G)	139	28.8	82.4
7 Manchester Grammar Sch, Manchester (G)	207	36.4	82.0
8 Gifford HS for Girls, Gifford (G)	72	38.0	80.8
9 Westminster Sch, London (G)	125	36.1	80.0
10 Haberdashers' Aske's Sch for Girls, Basingstoke (G)	115	34.4	79.2
11 Cheltenham Ladies' Coll, Cheltenham (G)	132	34.9	78.7
12 St Paul's Sch, London (G)	133	34.4	78.7
13 Haberdashers' Aske's Sch, Basingstoke (G)	133	34.4	78.7
14 Loughborough Sch, Loughborough (G)	153	27.2	77.5
15 King's Sch, Chester (M)	73	35.7	76.9
16 South Hampstead HS GPDS, London (G)	44	33.8	74.4
17 King's Coll Sch, London (G)	151	29.5	74.1
18 Northampton HS for Girls, Northampton (G)	117	29.5	74.0
19 Leeds Girls' HS, Leeds (G)	88	34.3	73.5
20 King Edward's Sch, Birmingham (G)	130	31.8	73.5
21 Oxford HS, Oxford (G)	79	36.3	73.5
22 St Ann's Sch, London (G)	72	35.6	72.1
23 Eton Coll, Windsor (G)	256	28.3	72.1
24 Cheltenham Ladies' Coll, Cheltenham (G)	24	28.3	72.1
25 Kendrick Sch, Chesham (G)	98	28.3	71.4
26 Queen's Sch, Chester (G)	98	28.3	71.4
27 Heston & St Leonards Sch, London (G)	98	28.3	71.4
28 Bedford Modern Sch, Bedford (G)	133	28.3	71.4
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England's chance to assess Hollioake's potential

BY ALAN LEE
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

THE sheer volume of players available to the England selectors is generally as counter-productive as a deep reservoir of indigestible water, but there are rare times when the scope to experiment is useful, and end-of-season Test Trophy games certainly number among them.

David Lloyd, the England coach and, for the moment, a member of the selection panel, has referred peevishly and regularly this week to criticism of the number of changes made from Test to one-day team. After the victory at Old Trafford on Thursday, he should now let his players do the talking.

Lloyd has rightly reiterated the selectors' intention to identify

separate units for the different forms of the game. These units may or may not retain a majority of the same players, but, here, England should not make the mistake of comparing themselves with the opposition.

Other countries, such as Pakistan, have far fewer players to choose from. Importantly, they also play far less domestic one-day cricket than in England, where the overload of three competitions is not only responsible for complacency, fatigue and dissatisfaction but also spawns any number of so-called one-day specialists. Some, at least, are worthy of a try at the higher level of their specialist subject.

In fact, there were five changes between the Test on Monday and the Test on Thursday, when the result,

let it be noted, vindicated the policy. Darren Gough and Matthew Maynard, neither of whom have played Test cricket this summer, contributed fully to the win and there was a busy performance from Ronnie Irani, the recalled all-rounder.

Today at Edgbaston, Adam Hollioake should have the chance to make his international debut, a touring place in his sights. Hollioake is a prime example of one whose

reputation has been made by one-day cricket and this mini-series, which will conclude before a third full house at Trent Bridge tomorrow, is a suitable environment in which to assess him.

Selectors, in any sport and any country, have a thankless job, but it often seems that the England cricket selector has the shortest straw of all. The range of choice, and the local interests within that choice, form one reason for the abuse

that they constantly suffer. Short memories offer another.

On a BBC radio phone-in during Thursday evening, two callers demanded that Michael Atherton should be dropped. One claimed that he had not made any runs in recent memory — a memory that seemed not to stretch back to Trent Bridge in July, let alone Johannesburg in December — and another insisted that his place should go to Matthew Walker, of Kent, an assertion likely to have embarrassed even Walker and his immediate family.

The point, here, is that, when there are those who believe that England should jettison a man who is not only their captain but also their most consistent batsman, a man whose dismissal so often prefaces the collapses like

those seen recently at Lord's and the Oval, what chance does the selector have of public approval?

It is only a few months back that England went to the World Cup with a team that failed to reflect the altered demands of one-day cricket. The selectors were roundly abused. Now they have made a choice focused squarely on 50-overs games and they are described as dunces for omitting too many of the Test team.

The sooner everyone accepts that these are two different types of cricket and that sometimes different players will be required, the better it will be. If the game on Thursday, played at the far-end of a long cricket year on an utterly unsuitable pitch, achieved little else, perhaps it brought a shaft of enlightenment.

EDGBASTON TEAMS

ENGLAND: M A Atherton (Lancashire), N V Knight (Worcestershire), J A Stewart (Surrey), G P Thorpe (Surrey), M P Maynard (Gloucestershire), G D Lloyd (Lancashire), A J Hollioake (Surrey), R C Irani (Essex), R D B Croft (Gloucestershire), D Gough (Yorkshire), D W Headley (Kent), A D Mullally (Leicestershire), P D Martin (Lancashire).

PAKISTAN: Asim Shahid, Saad Anwar, Ijaz Ahmed, Inzamam-ul-Haq, Sakin Malik, Waqar Arif, Imran Khan (to Rashid Latif), Mushtaq Ahmed, Waqar Younis, Ali-Ul-Rehman, Saqlain Mushtaq, Shadab Khan, Asif Mujtaba. Umpires: M J Kitchen (England) and P Wiley (England). Third umpire: A A Jones (England). Match referee: P Van der Merwe (South Africa).

CRICKET

Hussain's hundred puts Essex in control

By PAT GIBSON

HEADINGLEY (second day of four): Yorkshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 37 runs ahead of Essex.

WHATEVER the selectorial machinations which led to Nasser Hussain being left out of England's one-day international side — and Graham Gooch's lugubrious expression was giving nothing away — Essex were suitably grateful after his first championship century of the season had put them on course for their sixth successive victory.

They needed something special to have any chance of winning once they had allowed Yorkshire to make 290 on a pitch which was always going to get worse and Hussain produced it. His 158, containing two sixes and 17 fours, in more than 4½ hours at the crease, was an innings of the highest quality.

It could be said that Hussain owed it to them. While he has been resurrecting his Test career against India and Pakistan this summer, his contribution to the Essex cause has been minimal. His previous highest score of 81 against Derbyshire was back in May. He had missed seven matches through Test calls and a broken finger suffered on England duty and scored only 35 championship runs since mid-June.

He could not have picked a better time to show that he is still very much an Essex man. The pitch, offering uneven bounce, sideways movement and increasing turn, demanded courage as well as skill and Hussain displayed an abundance of both in an extraordinary morning session in which Essex scored 194 in 37 overs.

Not far behind him was Paul Prichard, the Essex captain, who had obviously made positive batting the order of the day when they resumed on 79 for two. He made 71 out of 135 in only 25 overs for the third wicket, although it has to be said that both he and Hussain were helped by a

Yorkshire performance which was as abysmal as Essex's was admirable.

It was not just the bowling which fell woefully short of the standard expected of a side still nursing championship aspirations, but the fielding as well. Prichard, on 20, was dropped by McGrath at backward point off Hamilton and when Hussain had made 98 he chipped Vaughan back over his head only for Stemp, running round from deep mid-off, to put down a sifter. It was not a good advertisement for those dark glasses which are supposed to enhance the sight even in overcast conditions.

The Essex lower order made valuable runs to secure a lead of 82, which grew to sizeable proportions as soon as Such went to work. In his first nine overs, the off-spinner achieved turn and bounce to remove Vaughan, Byas, Moxon and McGrath. Grayson chipped in with the wicket of White, and although Kettleborough and Blakey had put Yorkshire 37 ahead by the close they could not disguise the fact that only one of these sides was playing like potential champions.

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In forging a lead of 233, Derbyshire in effect deprived demoralised opponents of anything to play for, and it was no surprise when, after the quick dismissal of their openers, Worcestershire lost five wickets in the evening. Only Tom Moody, whose analysis improved in 8.5 overs to six for 52 from none for 44, his best in England, drew satisfaction from the day for Worcestershire.

It was an exciting one for



Adams unleashes one of the many fine strokes that sprinkled his innings of 123

Adams races through nervous nineties Walker's class in no doubt

By JOHN THICKNESSE

CHESTERFIELD: Worcestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 100 runs behind Derbyshire.

A PUNISHING century by Chris Adams and a quieter, but no less valuable, one by Tim O'Gorman played Derbyshire into a position from which they can hardly fail to beat Worcestershire and consolidate their challenge for their first championship since 1936.

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Derbyshire supporters, and in sunny weather leafy Queen's Park attracted 3,200 of them. After the disappointment of seeing Kim Barnett depart in the third over, they received full value for their money.

The high point of Adams's 123, his sixth hundred in the championship since June, came in the first over after lunch, when he flew from 91 to 111 with four pulverising strokes off Lampitt. The first two, a magnificent whipped six behind square leg that was never more than 15 feet above the ground, and a back-foot force through cover, could hardly have been bettered.

The completion of O'Gorman's century was equally dramatic, as, partnered by Dean and with only Malcolm looked as though they could well carry Nottinghamshire to a sizeable total when they resumed at 40 for three.

Yet, throughout their fine partnership of 72, begun in the gloom of Thursday evening, there was always more than a glint of hope for good seam bowling, and Fleming and McCague provided it. It was only by virtue of stubborn resistance by the tail that Nottinghamshire were able to edge past 200, despite Johnson's typically forthright 84 from 101 balls.

It was with a sense of pride that the good crowd at the Nevill watched Walker at work. Showing the class expected from a player who started this match averaging 125, he produced eight beautifully-struck fours and few false shots; and Hooper was still there and looking good when he had light brought play to a premature end.

It was Fleming who first turned the day towards Kent. He is a buster who mixes up his deliveries and is just the right sort of pace for a pitch like this.

A ball that moved away from the left-hander after pitching accounted for Downman, while Johnson, whose use of the hook and cut had brought him many of his 14 fours, tried to cut Fleming once too often and chopped the ball on to his stumps.

Nottinghamshire were 164 for seven on his departure, but Kent were further delayed by Noon and Bowen, who resisted bravely.

By JACK BAILEY

TUNBRIDGE WELLS (second day of four): Kent, with seven first-innings wickets in hand, are 106 runs behind Nottinghamshire.

NOT until Carl Hooper joined Matthew Walker in a stand that realised 84 for the third wicket could Kent be remotely confident of gaining the ascendancy; and when Walker was caught behind, one short of his half-century, the match was back in the melting pot.

The pitch is helping the seamers and thus far only Walker, again in imperious form, has played with time to spare, although Paul Johnson and Matthew Downman looked as though they could well carry Nottinghamshire to a sizeable total when they resumed at 40 for three.

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Somerset succumb in feeble fashion

By IVO TENNANT

LEICESTER (second day of four): Leicestershire (22pts) beat Somerset (4) by an innings and 39 runs.

AFTER two consecutive matches in which they achieved everything but a victory, Leicestershire needed only two days to beat Somerset. For the time being, they are at the top of the championship table, and, however transient that proves to be, they will be a side to be reckoned with until the last day of the season.

Even when Lee came in and started to force the field back in his ebullient way, Somerset did not look as if they would take this match into a third day, let alone a fourth. Too many wickets were falling at the other end, Lathwell again had gone cheaply, playing on to one from Wells that he looked to leave alone.

Trescott was beaten by a ball that Brimston turned considerably in his first over. Indeed, every bowling change that Whitaker made seemed to result in the fall of a wicket. Pierson was brought on and in his first over had Bowler taken right-handed at slip by Parsons. Leicestershire missed nothing at all in the field, which was one reason why they looked yesterday to be putative champions. When Ecclestone was taken at bat and pad, Somerset were still 120 runs in arrears.

The pitch had dried out considerably since the first morning, which meant that there really was scant reason for Somerset batting as poorly as they did. For his next trick, Whitaker brought on Simmons, who, at a waspish pace, bowled Harden, attempting to cut a ball too close to him, and, in the same over, knocked out Turner's middle stump.

Millns had Rose leg-before and then Simmons gained the important wicket of Lee, who was caught at first slip by Parsons. This was another excellent catch. Simmons took his 43rd wicket of the season when he had Batty held at gully and Millns finished off the innings by bowling Van Troos.

Earlier, Leicestershire had just failed to gain a third batting position, which could yet be of importance. Nixon, Whitaker and Pierson all contributed usefully, but this seemed to be not quite sufficient. Not, at least, until Somerset began to bat unaccountably badly.

Chris Lewis continued to display an unlikely affinity for captaincy yesterday, when he made his highest first-class score for two years as Surrey painstakingly bated Warwickshire out of the match at the Oval (Simon Wilde writes).

The Oval (second day of four): Surrey, with three first-innings wickets in hand, are 234 runs ahead of Warwickshire.

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YESTERDAY'S SCOREBOARDS

Britannic Assurance county championship

Derbyshire v Worcestershire
CHESTERFIELD (second day of four): Worcestershire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 100 runs behind Derbyshire.

Worcestershire: First Innings 238 (W P C Weston 100 not out, V S Solanki 58 A J Harris 4 for 31).
Second Innings
T S Curran 100 b Moxon 8
W P C Weston 100 b DeFreitas 18
G D Lloyd 50 b DeFreitas 30
T M Moody 50 b Krikken 12
K R Spring 50 not out 19
V S Solanki 40 b DeFreitas 31
V S Solanki 40 b DeFreitas 31
Extras (b 2, nb 2) 10
Total (111.5 overs) 133

FALL OF WICKETS 1-24, 2-36, 3-42, 4-71, 5-100, 6-111, 7-123, 8-133, 9-143, 10-153, 11-163, 12-173, 13-183, 14-193, 15-203, 16-213, 17-223, 18-233, 19-243, 20-253, 21-263, 22-273, 23-283, 24-293, 25-303, 26-313, 27-323, 28-333, 29-343, 30-353, 31-363, 32-373, 33-383, 34-393, 35-403, 36-413, 37-423, 38-433, 39-443, 40-453, 41-463, 42-473, 43-483, 44-493, 45-503, 46-513, 47-523, 48-533, 49-543, 50-553, 51-563, 52-573, 53-583, 54-593, 55-603, 56-613, 57-623, 58-633, 59-643, 60-653, 61-663, 62-673, 63-683, 64-693, 65-703, 66-713, 67-723, 68-733, 69-743, 70-753, 71-763, 72-773, 73-783, 74-793, 75-803, 76-813, 77-823, 78-833, 79-843, 80-853, 81-863, 82-873, 83-883, 84-893, 85-903, 86-913, 87-923, 88-933, 89-943, 90-953, 91-963, 92-973, 93-983, 94-993, 95-1003, 96-1013, 97-1023, 98-1033, 99-1043, 100-1053, 101-1063, 102-1073, 103-1083, 104-1093, 105-1103, 106-1113, 107-1123, 108-1133, 109-1143, 110-1153, 111-1163, 112-1173, 113-1183, 114-1193, 115-1203, 116-1213, 117-1223, 118-1233, 119-1243, 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420-4253, 421-4263, 422-4273, 423-4283, 424-4293, 425-4303, 426-4313, 427-4323, 428-4333, 429-4343, 430-4353, 431-4363, 432-4373, 433-4383, 434-4393, 435-4403, 436-4413, 437-4423, 438-4433, 439-4443, 440-4453, 441-4463, 442-4473, 443-4483, 444-4493, 445-4503, 446-4513, 447-4523, 448-4533, 449-4543, 450-4553, 451-4563, 452-4573, 453-4583, 454-4593, 455-4603, 456-4613, 457-4623, 458-4633, 459-4643, 460-4653, 461-4663, 462-4673, 463-4683, 464-4693, 465-4703, 466-4713, 467-4723, 468-4733, 469-4743, 470-4753, 471-4763, 472-4773, 473-4783, 474-4793, 475-4803, 476-4813, 477-4823, 478-4833, 479-4843, 480-4853, 481-4863, 482-4873, 483-4883, 484-4893, 485-4903, 486-4913, 487-4923, 488-4933, 489-4943, 490-4953, 491-4963, 492-4973, 493-4983, 494-4993, 495-5003, 496-5013, 497-5023, 498-5033, 499-5043, 500-5053, 501-5063, 502-5073, 503-5083, 504-5093, 505-5103, 506-5113, 507-5123, 508-5133, 509-5143, 510-5153, 511-5163, 512-5173, 513-5183, 514-5193, 515-5203, 516-5213, 517-5223, 518-5233, 519-5243, 520-5253, 521-5263, 522-5273, 523-5283, 524-5293, 525-5303, 526-5313, 527-5323, 528-5333, 529-5343, 530-5353, 531-5363, 532-5373, 533-5383, 534-5393, 535-5403, 536-5413, 537-5423, 538-5433, 539-5443, 540-5453, 541-5463, 542-5473, 543-5483, 544-5493, 545-5503, 546-5513, 547-5523, 548-5533, 549-5543, 550-5553, 551-5563, 552-5573, 553-5583, 554-5593, 555-5603, 556-5613, 557-5623, 558-5633, 559-5643, 560-5653, 561-5663, 562-5673, 563-5683, 564-5693, 565-5703, 566-57

Time for players to lead rugby forward

We have seen the future and it is black — All Black. Those who have had the opportunity to travel in the southern hemisphere know that the future of rugby union as a competitive sport and as a source of entertainment is brighter than they might ever have been led to believe.

The onus is now on the northern hemisphere to emulate the outstanding success of New Zealand in translating law and intent into action. Not simply to imitate them, but to translate the strengths of British — or French, or Canadian — players into a recognisable style with which the public can identify and which it will support.

In that respect, it is over to the game. In times past, in World Cup tournaments for example, the mistakes of administrators have been papered over by the efforts of players on the field. If ever there was a time for that to happen

again, it is now. The league season, which begins in England, Wales and Scotland today, must offer some positive hope after the appalling shambles into which rugby union in Great Britain has been allowed to fall during the first year of the open game.

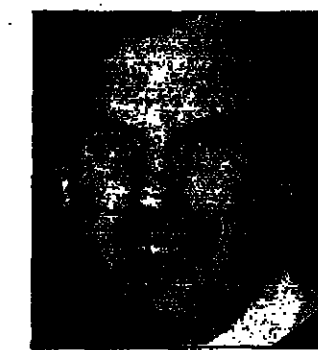
Not even the most optimistic soul could avoid the conclusion that rugby has entered one of its most painful phases in history. We can look forward to great deeds being done by players revelling in new standards of fitness, new freedom borne of money's liberating influence, new laws designed to encourage running rugby, a litter of new heroes from within and without the British Isles; but there is a black border around that rosy glow of excitement borne of the knowledge that the professional order will also produce casualties, some of whom may be among the most respected names in the game.

Those casualties will be collective, in the shape of clubs who over-reach themselves and fall into decline, and individuals — the many who for years have served the game for love and now feel disinclined to continue, and those who have simply found themselves in positions of responsibility with which they cannot cope.

Last season brought criticism of a new generation of administrators who were said to have no rugby pedigree. It would have been amazing had that not been the case. Amateurism leaves room for enthusiasm ahead of efficiency; professionalism does not.

Not that all the new breed of professionals will be uniformly efficient, and, in eight months' time, we will be able to look at the league tables and judge those who have matched up to the game's new imperatives. Rugby, though, has a great opportunity to pass straight

DAVID HANDS



from the 19th century to the 21st, ignoring the sluggish 20th, for much of which the sport has tried to cocoon itself from harsh reality.

That it can be an exciting, vibrant, passionate sport we know; that it can throw up worthy role models we know, too, and, happily,

several of them are close at hand — coaches such as Ian McGeechan, Jim Telfer, Bob Dwyer and Brian Ashton, players such as Michael Lynagh, Philippe Sella, Philip de Glanville, Martin Johnson and Rob Wainwright.

There is even an opportunity for the best of British and Irish to come together at the season's end and test themselves against South Africa, the World Cup holders. A season that culminates in an overseas tour by the British Isles always holds something extra, or it would do were it not for the uncertainty which at present exists over the relationship between the governing bodies of England and Wales and their leading clubs, who hold the contracts of all the players.

That uncertainty is another hurdle for the players to overcome. How will they perform in the early stages of this season, when they do not know if international rugby will

be denied them? Will they embrace the new creed of entertainment, the attitude of mind demonstrated so conclusively this summer (which may reach its apogee when New Zealand play South Africa in the final international in Johannesburg today), which says that attack is the best form of defence?

It will not happen at once, but this season must offer hope for the future. It must show — and for nobody more than those clubs that seek independence from their unions — that the game is worthy of the corporate support and television backing without which sport is hamstringed these days. It must also demonstrate a self-discipline and an honesty that has been sadly absent from the game's councils this past year and more.

What rugby union craves is leadership, most notably in England, which, as historic codifier of the game and one of the biggest

founder unions, should always occupy an influential position in the world game's affairs. Manifestly, at this moment, it does not. Rancour is rife within the Rugby Football Union and its disagreement with the other home unions can only weaken the game in Europe with regard to television interests.

The fact is that we now have professional rugby and we do not have the calibre of men to run it properly. Within the next year, the club game, which is now becoming a powerful generating force thanks to the new money that is surging into it, may throw up individuals of quality who not only understand the new game but also can offer constructive directions and intellectual integrity, without which sport, any sport, may well become bogged down. The game is certainly good enough to rise from the present morass — but are those who manage it?

Hopes and fears for professional rugby union expressed at the start of a whole new ball game

Getting to grips with double the challenge

THE PLAYER

JOHN DEVEREUX was the first of a new breed of rugby player, the cross-coder. Playing rugby union for Sale now occupies most of his winter and rugby league for Widnes the summer. Devereux, a dual international, has managed back-to-back seasons for Widnes and Manly-Warringah, the Australian club, but back-to-back sports present problems of adaptability as well as endurance.

"People have expressed fears for my health, but the fact is this year I've missed the past 12 weeks at Widnes because of injury," he said. "I'm getting over that now and I'll be raring to go."

"Last season at Widnes, the off-season lasted precisely two weeks. The summer before I was at Manly, so playing year-round is something that I and others are used to."

For Devereux and a growing number of other high-profile league players, rugby union's open era has meant new earning potential. In the cases of three former Widnes team-mates who have followed him to Sale — Adrian Hadley, Darren Wright and Richie Eyres — it has involved a wholesale career switch to union from league



Wray announces the signing of Lynagh, left, for the 1996-97 season at a Saracens press conference earlier this year

Club controller throws open doors

THE OWNER

AS A millionaire investor in one of England's premier clubs, Nigel Wray is some way out of the common run of rugby enthusiasts. Yet his background is a familiar one, that of a player who appeared for Old Millhills, occasionally for Hampshire and paid his match sub along with the rest.

Wray, 43, is now chairman of Burford Holdings and also of Trocadero plc, whose market value is £390 million. Last November he agreed to inject £2.5 million into Saracens, which, among other things, has brought two of the greats of world rugby — Michael Lynagh and Philippe Sella — to north London and has moved the club into a new home at Enfield, where today they begin their professional career against Leicester.

"I didn't believe there would be

anything like the problems when I first became involved, nor the money," Wray said, "but, when people say the money involved is ridiculous, well, it's ridiculous that Tom Cruise is paid \$20 million for one film, but that's market forces at work. I subscribe to the view that the market gets it right and that's the going rate."

"What we are looking at in rugby are highly paid, highly talented actors who have a world stage. Whatever is good for Saracens is good for north London and, one hopes, good for England insofar as there must be a way of producing players for the national side, and in this country, it's the club system."

"But we have to reach out to the

community, to the schools. Saracens is not my club. Everyone who goes along to support them can truly say: 'It's my club', and that's what they should think."

"I can understand the antipathy that smaller clubs may have and, in that respect, the big clubs have a major PR exercise to carry out to ensure that they are not seen as the greedy rich who are taking all the money out of the game."

"But it's not the game at large which is paying £1.5 million in wages each season, it's not the game at large which is trying to create stands, build grounds which are a prerequisite for playing European rugby under lights."

"Someone once told me there are 1,000 sides playing amateur soccer round Liverpool each weekend and they're not all discussing whether

Cantona is paid a vast sum — they play their game, have a damn good time then go to Anfield or Everton and watch the big match. I can think of no earthly reason why all the amateur clubs in England won't go on as before."

"Our players will go into schools, talk about the game to youngsters, but we have to establish the structure we want. We pay the wages, we put capital into the infrastructure, we get the players to train twice a day, we invite people to come in and be part of what has been a bit of a secret society."

"It's very exciting but it's also jolly difficult and fundamental to what we do is control of our own players, our own games and our own destiny."

DAVID HANDS

Style counsellor with hit record

THE COACH

THERE is little that Bob Dwyer needs to do to embellish his reputation as one of the world's premier coaches. For ten years he was at the helm of the Australia national side, which became a premier force in world rugby, never more than in 1991, when they won the World Cup.

Various business opportunities were available to Dwyer when his term as national coach ended last year, but to some — and you suspect he is one of them — the need to take the game further, to scrape the earth from the next jewel of a player, is like a drug. Thus, Dwyer finds himself as director of coaching at Welford Road, the home of Leicester, for the next two, possibly three, years.

"As Australians, we have always thought there to be probably more good players in England than any other country in the world," he said. "We have been quite surprised by the breadth of talent we see and I have been aware of that ever since my first visit with Australia, in 1988. Equally, I have always thought British players had the scope to do a lot more attacking play."

"We will seek to put on display players who put on an expansive game, and if others see that as setting a good example for the England team, that would be great. I certainly want to develop players for England, but, while we already have considerable international experience, there are a number of young players coming through who deserve opportunities."

"I don't think that, ultimately, you can be successful in a sport unless you have lots of different ways of winning a game. My ambition has always been to prepare teams that know those ways. That's not to take anything away from the style in which Leicester have been winning matches, but we need more."

"One way of doing that is to bring in different players, but it will take us three months to get part of the way down the road and two years to become really good. We could probably put two good back lines on the field now, which wasn't the case last year, but they

also need confidence to play in a certain way."

"The basic co-ordination is there and so is the skill, but there's a lack of technique. If we can drill in the technique, we can let the natural skill play its part, and if we don't manage a lot more, then we have let ourselves down."

Dwyer, though, emphasises that the development of English rugby is not in the hands of the players alone. Here he is at one with Ian McGeechan, the coach to Northampton, and next year, to the British Isles. Both men believe that referees are critical.

"They have to stop people lying on the tackled player, you have to let the ball-carrier play the ball so that movements can be sustained," Dwyer said. "We've all seen what the southern-hemisphere countries have produced this summer. My belief is that the next great explosion in rugby will be in the northern hemisphere, and it will happen this season."

"It will grow in terms of popularity, and television audiences and points scored and quality of play. Leicester want to be part of that and it's my job to put a little meat on their vision of where the game is going. At the same time, I have to put in place a structure of coaching at the club for the 21st century."

DAVID HANDS



Dwyer: optimistic

Entertainment must be the aim of the game

THE FAN

DAVE FOX's season ticket at Bristol has gone up this year from £49 to £75. With the possibility of European and Anglo-Welsh competitions, in addition to the Courage Clubs Championship, he is promised greater value for money. "To arrange my work commitments, I naturally contacted the club to get all the dates, only to be told that they didn't actually know them," he said.

In the professional era, Fox, who is secretary of the Rugby Memorabilia Society, has serious misgivings about the commitment to the spectator. "There's a danger of us being ignored totally," he said. "Everything now is so money oriented. Officials only see the pound notes before their eyes. If anyone is going to suffer, it will be those of us who pay to get in."

From his position on the terrace at the Memorial Ground, his concerns range from the entertainment on offer to the archaic facilities at many grounds. "It's a season of great anticipation, but also great apprehension," he said.



Fox: serious misgivings

The reckoning starts when Saturday comes

"I'll be very nervous as 3 o'clock approaches as we wait to see how many people are going to turn up." That, of course, will be just the first Saturday in Symon Elliott's season at Richmond Athletic Ground: the butterflies will not go away in the foreseeable future.

Elliott, 39, is of the new breed of rugby administrator, the managing director of a retail investment business who opted for a change of course when Richmond were taken over last March by Ashley Levett, the millionaire. Elliott, offered the chance to become chief executive of the new operation, saw the opportunity to develop a leisure business with rugby as the core.

"I thought rugby could attract a much wider profile and that's why I chanced my arm," he said. "Over the past month there has been growing interest and membership is approaching 2,000." Last season it was 1,500 and a good gate was not much more than 1,000.

Any businessman might have preferred a more triumphalist start to the season than the visit of



Elliott: one of new breed

Maesteg in an Anglo-Welsh competition that may or may not take place, but that is beyond Elliott's control. Playing success is vital to the enterprise — promotion to the first division at the end of this season is the immediate aim — but the renaissance of Richmond is more than that.

"I'm trying to make the business sustainable," Elliott said. "There are three traditional eggs in the basket, those of gate receipts, sponsorship and media. The media agreement is uncertain, to say the least, which is frustrating and it means that I have completely discounted it as a revenue source."

"Happily, we have signed a good sponsorship deal with Oracle that is in the bag and I must try to generate more hospitality business. That may be difficult since some of our second-division opponents lack the excitement factor, but there are ways of getting round that."

"This Saturday, for instance, we will have a crèche, face painters, clowns and I'll promote it as a fun day. It's about getting people in, whether they watch the rugby or not. Rugby clubs have more space in which to wander than football grounds and people can participate in the day in different ways."

"I want a dialogue between the customer and the product as opposed to people just coming in, sitting down and going away again. I think there's a high level of general interest in rugby; people are aware of the personalities. My job is to get them down here rather than finding other things to do on a Saturday afternoon."

DAVID HANDS

Wanted: sugar daddy in Cheadle Hulme

THE SECRETARY

NO SUGAR daddies, to the knowledge of Norman Thomas, have been seen at Grove Park. Thomas is secretary of Manchester, a small club with a famous name, but no big backer, as yet. "Obviously, there's the association with the Manchester football clubs," he said. "The name itself is a selling point."

Manchester are also one of the successes of the league system. They have won promotion in four of the past seven years, including last season to the fourth division (north) of the Courage Clubs Championship, and the second division is the goal by the turn of the century.

Thomas said: "To achieve this you now need the financial clout to go with the ability of players and coaches. We exist on money from local sponsors and amounts generously given by some members. Our resources are stretched to the limit, but one road we won't go down is bankrupting the club. We're seeking a major sponsor who could provide us £25,000 to £30,000."



Thomas: stretched to limit

"There are more spending commitments this year. No players are on contracts, but some will be paid on a win basis. It's still more pocket money than the amounts you'd need to plan an annual holiday in Florida. The tendency, therefore, is to go for players who are perhaps passed their sell-by date in terms of first division rugby, but have the ability and ambition to succeed."

So, if a sugar daddy did turn up in Cheadle Hulme? "We'd still want to control the club and utilise the resources as we would see fit," he said. "That's our position now. We'd shy against a wholesale takeover, but, with the speed of change in the game, who knows, we might think differently in a year."

The job of club secretary, as for many unpaid volunteers, has altered. "A lot more time has to be devoted to the running of the club," Thomas said. "Professionalism has meant a change to a professional outlook, even though the club is essentially amateur. For league games, we get in the region of 200-250 spectators. We'd hope for more with our promotion, but gate receipts cannot finance the club."

Thomas is unsparing in his criticism of the Rugby Football Union. "Right until the end of last season we didn't know the promotion-relegation position," he said.

"There is no doubt that the RFU lacks direction. It is floundering and you only have to see the five nations' tournament debacle to see that. If we can see anything this season, it would be the RFU getting its house in order."

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

RACING: HARD-FOUGHT SOLARIO VICTORY GIVES PRESCOTT THIRD GROUP WIN IN EIGHT DAYS

Brave Act adds to pattern of success

By JULIAN MUSCAT

Brave Act registered Sir Mark Prescott's third pattern winner in eight days when he came to the Solario Stakes at Sandown, yesterday by the skin of his teeth. The colt prevailed in a finish of bobbing heads after Falkenham looked an assured winner deep inside the final furlong.

Brave Act's victory caused no movement within classic betting markets but he owed his victory to an astute bit of thinking on Prescott's part. Five years ago, the Newmar-

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: YUKON HOPE
(5.20 Sandown Park)
Next best: Yom Jameel
(3.30 Chester)

ket trainer brought Chicomond into this race on the back of a meticulous preparation. The colt's experience saw him home — he was Prescott's inaugural group winner in Britain — and Brave Act's triumph was equally due to his superior education.

The front-running son of Persian Bold dug in when challenged early in the straight, and he refused to wilt when Falkenham, the last to threaten, came at him with plenty of menace.

However, in winning his second previous races, Falkenham had never seriously traded blows. It showed here as Brave Act, his racecourse wisdom evident, wor-



Brave Act, left, holds off Falkenham's determined challenge in a thrilling finish to the group three Solario Stakes at Sandown yesterday

rried Falkenham out of the prize in the closing strides.

Prescott felt there were additional influences. "I still think some jockeys can pop their horse's head down in the last stride and that's what George [Duffield] did."

Indeed, this was the second time in eight days that Duffield had taken an important race from the embars. It was by the minimum margin that Pivotal annexed last week's Nunthorpe Stakes for the same stable.

Add to that the processional victory of Red Camellia in the Prestige Stakes and one can only wonder about the forces at work around Prescott's Heath House Stables. For decades the preserve of honest handicappers, the stable has now flourished into a competitor at the highest level. As Prescott himself said: "It has been some sort of week. Three group winners in eight days — that would normally take eight years."

The trainer also indicated

that Red Camellia is Brave Act's superior on their homeworld. As much is evident in their racecourse performances to date. But while Brave Act's 33-1 quote for next year's 2,000 Guineas may be entirely academic, Ladbrokes may find reason to lower its identical quote about Medaaly.

The Godolphin-trained juvenile was emphatic in overthrowing Imperial President — who conceded 7lb — in the one-mile Charterhouse Condi-

tions Stakes and is now on target for the Royal Lodge Stakes next month.

Interestingly, Medaaly was the top-rated horse originally entered in the more prestigious race won by Brave Act. But Simon Crisford, racing manager to Godolphin, offered an insight into the professional thinking that governs the successful stable.

"The important thing was that the Solario trip [seven furlongs] was a little bit on the short side for Medaaly. He is a

powerful, long-striding horse who will be best off a strong pace," Crisford said.

He added: "At least the mile of this race gave him the chance to use his stride. The Royal Lodge has been his target all season and this race, which came at the right time, allowed him to gain a little more experience."

Come the Ascot test, Medaaly, a half-brother to the stable's Charnwood Forest, should be at the peak of his powers.

Pearl D'Azur to overcome inexperience

SANDOWN PARK CHANNEL 4



3.10: Lap Of Luxury, who ran her best race of the season last time, thrives in the autumn and seems sure to figure prominently. However, her stable appears out of sorts. Awaamir, by contrast, is from the in-form John Gosden yard and was well thought of at the start of the season. A decisive winner in handicap company last time, she can handle the step up in class. Solar Crystal and Najia had excellent juvenile form. Both have hinted at a revival but are left with something to prove. This is a tougher assignment for Yamuna, who impressed most recently at Windsor.

3.40: Pearl D'Azur is worth an interest in a competitive heat. Although his inexperience is a worry against some seasoned sprinters, this lightly-raced sort is almost certainly improving fast. He has plenty of pace and should capitalise on favourable draw. Pride Of Brixton shaped promisingly last week after a lengthy absence. He appears closely matched with Double Blue but goes well on an easy surface. Bajan Rose and Lago Di Varano are running into form.

4.15: This will take plenty of winning. Sharpal has now found his range but is 6lb

higher than when recently mastering A-Asem. Among Angus-G's victims in two Newmarket victories were Edan Heights, Villa Premiere and Fahs. However, they were gained on fast ground and Edan Heights can take his revenge. Simon Dow's runner succumbed only in the dying strides and has winning form at this venue. Filial has obvious scope for improvement and is another for the shortlist.

4.45: One exception among a gathering of out-of-form stayers is Nersong, who came good when upped to this trip last time out. Reg Akehurst's representative acts on any surface and he should go well in an uninspiring contest. Te Amo has been tried over a variety of distances but is winless in two years. Western Sal may have better prospects on her distant third at Newmarket recently.

JULIAN MUSCAT

SANDOWN PARK

THUNDERER

- 2.00 Run Lucy Run 3.40 Dashing Blue
2.35 Royal Division 4.15 Game Play
3.10 LAP OF LUXURY (nap) 4.20 Bob's Play
4.50 Yukon Hope

Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.35 Kaafth Homm. 3.10 MISS UNIVERSAL (nap). 4.15 A-Asem.

GOING: GOOD

TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

DRAW: 5F, HIGH NUMBERS BEST

2.00 B D M SELLING NURSERY HANDICAP

- (2-Y-O; £3,225; 7f 10y) (13 runners)
- 101 (13) 65026 MARAUD 8 (5.5) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98
102 (12) 30115 SUMMERWILL WOOD 10 (5.7) (Rady Lash) P Moore 9-6 M Henry (9) 98
103 (11) 01115 SUMMERWILL WOOD 10 (5.7) (Rady Lash) P Moore 9-6 M Henry (9) 98
104 (9) 21043A RUN LUCY RUN 10 (5.5) (Guthrie Racing) R Duffield 9-2 Duffield 98
105 (8) 324108 POLY MOON 7 (5.5) (Sheel & Holt Contractors) M Channon 9-1 J Fortune 98
106 (1) 6240 RESCATOR 14 (6) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98
107 (1) 54255 SPONDOULDS 11 (5.5) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98
108 (4) 05324 GROVEFAR 14 (5.5) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98
109 (8) 61243A LUCAS TOUCH 10 (5.5) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98
110 (12) 32542 MARSH MARSHALL 10 (5.5) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98
111 (10) 53185A RONS REVERIE 10 (5.5) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98
112 (2) 21043B DUFFY FORGET 10 (5.5) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98
113 (3) 308235 SUPER FORGERS 10 (5.5) (Wych Hall Stud) R Armstrong 9-7 M Henry (9) 98

BETTING: 2-Barnard Castle, 5-1 Lykes Touch, 11-2 Marsh Marshall, 6-1 Poly Moon, 7-1 Run Lucy Run, 15-2 Maud, 6-1 Summerville Wood.

FORM FOCUS

MARAUD 1st of 10 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). GROVEFAR 2nd of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). LUCAS TOUCH 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). POLY MOON 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). SPONDOULDS 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). GROVEFAR 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). LUCAS TOUCH 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). POLY MOON 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). SPONDOULDS 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10).

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MONDAY: Hamilton Park (first race, 2.15). Heddon (2.00).	TUESDAY: Brighton (2.30). Ponterick (2.45).
WEDNESDAY: Brighton (2.30). York (C4, 2.10). Newmarket (2.30).	THURSDAY: Sandown (2.20). York (C4, 2.10). Purton (2.30).
FRIDAY: Haydock Park (2.15). Kempton Park (C4, 2.05). Geoghegan (2.25).	SATURDAY: Haydock Park (2.05). Kempton Park (C4, 2.15). Thirsk (2.15). Stamford (2.20). Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).

Flat meetings in bold

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WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP			
1 mile 2 furlongs, Sandown 4.15pm, Live on CH4 TV			
6/1 Angus-G	14/1 Ocean Park	6/1 Sharpal	16/1 Ninia
8/1 Filial	16/1 White Plains	10/1 Ashby Hill	20/1 Exemption
10/1 Game Play	20/1 Kresliffe	12/1 Clifton Fox	25/1 Bakers Daughter
12/1 Fahs	25/1 Hardy Dancer	14/1 A-Asem	40/1 Melomania
14/1 Edan Heights	40/1 Vindaloo	14/1 Frezelleire	66/1 Early Peace

Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Prices subject to fluctuation.
Available up to 4.00pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(a) may apply. Non-runner — no bet.
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GUIDE TO OUR RACECARD

- 103 (13) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
104 (12) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
105 (11) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
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107 (9) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
108 (8) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
109 (7) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
110 (6) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
111 (5) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
112 (4) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
113 (3) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
114 (2) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
115 (1) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98

2.35 PARAGON AMATEURS LIMITED STAKES

- (£3,225; 1m 2f 10y) (16 runners)
- 201 (13) 24121 KAARI HOMM 8 (5.5) (Guthrie Racing) R Duffield 9-2 Duffield 98
202 (12) 01114 SUMMERWILL WOOD 10 (5.7) (Rady Lash) P Moore 9-6 M Henry (9) 98
203 (11) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
204 (10) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
205 (9) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
206 (8) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
207 (7) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
208 (6) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
209 (5) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
210 (4) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
211 (3) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
212 (2) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
213 (1) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98

FORM FOCUS

KAARI HOMM 1st of 10 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). SUMMERWILL WOOD 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). GOOD TIMES 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). KAARI HOMM 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). SUMMERWILL WOOD 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). GOOD TIMES 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). KAARI HOMM 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10).

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Flat meetings in bold

CHESTER

1.55 Osmental. 2.30 Insider Trader. 3.00 Rebel County. 3.30 Yom Jameel. 4.00 Flammards. 4.30 Exit To The Sea.
The Times Private Handicapper's top ratings:
3.00 Rebel County.

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP			
1 mile 2 furlongs, Sandown 4.15pm, Live on CH4 TV			
6/1 Angus-G	14/1 Ocean Park	6/1 Sharpal	16/1 Ninia
8/1 Filial	16/1 White Plains	10/1 Ashby Hill	20/1 Exemption
10/1 Game Play	20/1 Kresliffe	12/1 Clifton Fox	25/1 Bakers Daughter
12/1 Fahs	25/1 Hardy Dancer	14/1 A-Asem	40/1 Melomania
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PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION

3.40 BISON BATED HANDICAP

- (£5,987; 5f 6y) (14 runners)
- 401 (13) 51005 DOUBLE QUACK 26 (5.5) (E. Prescott) M. Johnson 4-9-7 Duffield 98
402 (12) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
403 (11) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
404 (10) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
405 (9) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
406 (8) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
407 (7) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
408 (6) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
409 (5) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
410 (4) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
411 (3) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
412 (2) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
413 (1) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98

4.15 WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP

- (£5,160; 1m 2f 10y) (20 runners)
- 501 (13) 22000 HARVEY DANCER 9 (5.5) (Guthrie Racing) R Duffield 9-2 Duffield 98
502 (12) 01114 SUMMERWILL WOOD 10 (5.7) (Rady Lash) P Moore 9-6 M Henry (9) 98
503 (11) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
504 (10) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
505 (9) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
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508 (6) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
509 (5) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
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513 (1) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98

FORM FOCUS

HARVEY DANCER 1st of 10 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). SUMMERWILL WOOD 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). GOOD TIMES 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). HARVEY DANCER 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). SUMMERWILL WOOD 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). GOOD TIMES 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10). HARVEY DANCER 1st of 7 in the Solario Stakes at Sandown (2, 10).

RACING NEXT WEEK

MONDAY: Hamilton Park (first race, 2.15). Heddon (2.00).	TUESDAY: Brighton (2.30). Ponterick (2.45).
WEDNESDAY: Brighton (2.30). York (C4, 2.10). Newmarket (2.30).	THURSDAY: Sandown (2.20). York (C4, 2.10). Purton (2.30).
FRIDAY: Haydock Park (2.15). Kempton Park (C4, 2.05). Geoghegan (2.25).	SATURDAY: Haydock Park (2.05). Kempton Park (C4, 2.15). Thirsk (2.15). Stamford (2.20). Wolverhampton (AW, 7.00).

Flat meetings in bold

WOLVERHAMPTON

7.00 The Wyndotte Inn. 7.30 Yeoman Oliver. 8.00 Farmhouse Plus. 8.30 Sea-Deer. 9.00 Windborn. 9.30 Farmhouse.

WILLIAM HILL HANDICAP			
1 mile 2 furlongs, Sandown 4.15pm, Live on CH4 TV			
6/1 Angus-G	14/1 Ocean Park	6/1 Sharpal	16/1 Ninia
8/1 Filial	16/1 White Plains	10/1 Ashby Hill	20/1 Exemption
10/1 Game Play	20/1 Kresliffe	12/1 Clifton Fox	25/1 Bakers Daughter
12/1 Fahs	25/1 Hardy Dancer	14/1 A-Asem	40/1 Melomania
14/1 Edan Heights	40/1 Vindaloo	14/1 Frezelleire	66/1 Early Peace

Each way One Quarter the odds a place 1, 2, 3, 4. Prices subject to fluctuation.
Available up to 4.00pm. Tattersalls Rule 4(a) may apply. Non-runner — no bet.
LATEST ODDS ON WILLIAM HILL TV TEXT — Texted on CH4 Freephone 0800 44 40 40
TO OPEN A CREDIT ACCOUNT FREEPHONE 0800 280 810 WILLIAM HILL RULES APPLY
PRICES SUBJECT TO FLUCTUATION

4.45 SUNLEY HANDICAP

- (£3,870; 1m 6f) (12 runners)
- 601 (13) 400-036 MORIS FLUTTER 71 (5.5) (W. Prescott) D. Brown 7-10-4 Duffield 98
602 (12) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
603 (11) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
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5.20 OASIS FOREST HOLIDAY VILLAGES MAIDEN FILLES STAKES

- (3-Y-O; £3,388; 1m 14y) (14 runners)
- 701 (13) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
702 (12) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
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711 (3) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
712 (2) 0-4322 GOOD TIMES 74 (5.5) (Prestonfield Stud) W Hall 5-1-4 T McHenry 98
713 (1) 0-43

GOLF

Roe resigned to his fate in off-putting conditions

BY MEL WEBB

THE abuse continued to pour down on the Collingtree Park course yesterday from disgruntled players trying to put together some sort of a score in the third round of the One 2 One British Masters. If the course had been human, it would have been left a bleeding and battered heap in some unconsidered corner.

The commonest emotion was one of tight-lipped resignation, a sort of grim acceptance that the dreadful greens, though nowhere near fair, were at least the same for everybody. Mark Roe, who started the day sharing the lead but finished it seven shots in arrears, said that he was "overwhelmingly disappointed". "It's a lottery," Roe said after a 78 that contained one double bogey and five bogeys. "In fact, I've got more chance of winning the Nat-

Two men who were not complaining were Robert Allenby and Pedro Linhart, who are occupying the first two places as the tournament goes into its last day. They are the only two players under par. Allenby on five under, Linhart on four under.

Allenby was all-Australian blunt after his 71, which left him on 211. The Poms might have been moaning, but there was not going to be any from his direction, and he obviously did not have much sympathy with the complainants. "The guy who's got most patience is the guy who's going to win here," he said. "It's the same for everybody. There is always going to be a lot of whingeing, but what can we do about it? You just have to get on with it."

Linhart, once Peter and American but now transmogrified into Pedro and Spanish, got in before Allenby and was quietly satisfied with himself, but then, he should have been. In the circumstances, his 67, the lowest score of the day by two shots, was a remarkable effort.

He studied his round with an eagle at the 9th, achieved when he chipped in from what he described as about a kilometre and a half — later modified to 45 feet — six birdies and only three bogeys, suffered when he missed par putts from 20 inches and five feet, and three-putted from 40 feet.

"I like this course," he said. You cannot be serious, surely, Pedro? "Yes, I like it." Then he qualified his statement. "It suits my game — I'm not saying it's a good golf course, because it isn't." Too close for comfort, that — saved by the bell from the men in white coats and a night in a rubber bedroom.

LEADERS AFTER THREE ROUNDS (GB and Ireland unless stated): 211: R Allenby (AUS) 67, 71, 71, 212: P Linhart (ESP) 72, 73, 67, 216: M A Norton (SPA) 75, 70, 71, C Rocca (I) 71, 73, 72, 217: A Lehoucq (F) 74, 73, 70, J Woodman (W) 76, 71, F Coa (SPA) 70, 71, 76, G Lewinson (SA) 66, 75, 76, 218: S McAlister (Z) 76, 68, J Haggeman (SWE) 71, 71, 70, J Coates (ENG) 78, 71, P Eales (Z) 71, 72, K Eriksson (SWE) 71, 75, 72, M Clayton (AUS) 68, 76, 73, M Roe (I) 71, 76, 219: E Darcy (Z) 74, 76, 69, B May (USA) 74, 75, 70, P Lawson (Z) 75, 72, M A. Arnesen (SPA) 74, 72, 73, P Mitchell (Z) 71, 73, 74, P Watson (Z) 74, 74, P O'Malley (AUS) 71, 73, 75, 222: B Lane (Z) 77, 70, W Riley (AUS) 71, 76, 71, M Gates (Z) 77, 72, B Hughes (AUS) 73, 75, 72, P Hazell (SWE) 70, 75, 75, R Goosen (SA) 71, 74, 75, D Galford (GB) 74, 77.



Rose, with Storm looking on, steers clear of the trees on the 11th fairway yesterday

Rose commands centre stage

BY JOHN HOPKINS, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

THE St Andrews Trophy and the Jacques Leglise Trophy, played for between amateurs from Great Britain and Ireland and the Continent of Europe, are identical competitions, except that the former is for men, the latter for boys. That being so, you might have expected it to be a man, one of the three Walker Cup players or the Amateur champion or any one of the outstanding Spaniards, who caught the eye on the first day of these two competitions at Woodhall Spa yesterday.

But, no, well as these men played, Justin Rose played better. The precocious 16-year-old from Hampshire produced some outstanding golf, holding an 80-yard pitch shot in the morning and then achieving the day's biggest victory in the afternoon singles.

Rose made light of the perils and pitfalls of Woodhall Spa's deep bunkers and narrow fairways. He and Graeme Storm were approximately four under par around the par 73 course when

they defeated Kariem Baraka and Tino Schuster, their two German opponents, in the opening Jacques Leglise Trophy foursomes. This is good scoring by any standards on what is considered a "big" golf course, where the tees and greens looked in good condition, even if some of the fairways were threadbare because less than six inches of rain had fallen since February. As a result of this, preferred lies were allowed.

In the afternoon, Rose played even better. Apart from a peccadillo on the 1st hole, where he drove out of bounds and lost the hole, he was four under par for the next eleven holes and won nine of them to beat Schuster 8 and 6. No one was surprised at Rose's form, because he had been playing so well in practice.

Perhaps Warren Bladon, the Amateur champion, came closest to matching Rose's figures. In his first big representative competition — until he won the Amateur in June, he had only been a county player

for Warwickshire — Bladon was the only man to win both his matches.

He and Robert Wiggins beat Sergio Garcia, the highly-regarded Spaniard, who, at 16, is young enough to play in the Jacques Leglise Trophy, but is so good he was selected for the senior side, and Martin Laleber, from Holland, and then Bladon was approximately three under par in the afternoon when he defeated Daniel Olsson in a match of high quality and low scoring.

"I miss a few greens, but I don't mind that because I can chip and putt well," Bladon said after a day in which he had had ten birdies. Bladon led a near-run in the singles. Great Britain and Ireland winning six of the eight matches. It will require a considerable effort for the Continent of Europe to get back into this match now. "It's nice to win both matches on your first day," Bladon said.

Results, page 49

Dassu sets pace as others seek places

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN OREBRO, SWEDEN

AT THE Solheim Cup two years ago, Federica Dassu stood on the 1st tee at The Greenbrier and froze. "I nearly had a heart attack," Dassu, from Italy, now 37 and in her thirteenth year on the American Express European tour, said.

Dassu was only spectating, waiting for Lora Fairclough to tee-off on her debut, and she has no regrets about not being in the fray for places that has dominated the Compaq Open here this week. "I'm too old and it's too dangerous," she said yesterday after a second round of 69, three under par, had propelled her into the lead on 139.

"I'll be at St Pierre to watch," Dassu said, "but I always think it's lovely not to be playing."

Joanne Morley and Kathryn Marshall, two of the players desperate to play against the Americans next month, were tied for second place, a shot behind. The French pair of Marie-Laure de Lorenz, who had five birdies in the last ten holes for a 69, and Stephanie Dallongeville, who had a course-record 66, share fourth place on 141.

Morley, who started her round at the 10th with a bogey five, described her second successive 70 as "steady but not spectacular". She had three birdies in four holes from the 14th and has obviously acquired a relish for playing with Swedes in Sweden. Last week, in Stockholm, she partnered Annika Sorenstam and Liselotte Neumann in front of enthusiastic home support and was joint-second. In the first two rounds here, paired with Helen Alfredsson and Lotta Sorenstam, she is still on course to clinch one of the automatic Solheim places.

Marshall, a Scot in search of a wild card, confessed that she would be "gutted" if she did not make the team and kept her hopes up with a 71. She has had her husband, Scot, caddy for her during the fraught past two tournaments because he is the person most capable of coping with her at the moment. "Two weeks ago we agreed we wouldn't talk about the Solheim Cup," Marshall said, "but it didn't work. We haven't talked about anything but."

LEADERS AFTER TWO ROUNDS (GB and Ireland unless stated): 139: F Dassu (I) 70, 69, 140: K Marshall (GB) 71, J Morley (W) 70, 70, 141: M-L de Lorenz (F) 72, 68, S Dallongeville (F) 73, 68, 142: J Wirth (F) 70, 72, K Neumann (D) 74, 68, 143: M Hageman (HOL) 75, 68, J Speak (Z) 71, C Sorenstam (SWE) 73, 70, 144: R Canedo (ESP) 68, 76, L Navarro (SPA) 73, 71, S Leonard (Z) 75, 68, 145: D Drum (Z) 74, 70, M Burstrom (SWE) 72, 72, C Elsson (HOL) 74, 70, S Gronberg (SWE) 71, 72, M Arne (SPA) 69, 75.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Wigan seek to retrieve arid season

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT IS 12 years since Wigan last ended a season empty handed. Avoidance of that humiliation is the holders' motivation in the first Stones Premiership semi-final, hence Graeme West's reference to the match tonight against Bradford Bulls as being the most important of his players' lives.

"We badly want to win something," West, the Wigan coach, said. "The last Premiership completed Wigan's grand slam of the four domestic competitions, in 1995. It is their last chance to prevent the trophy cabinet at Central Park being cleaned out this season."

Bradford have not won anything for seven years. The wait might end if they repeat what they did in the Super League last month to Wigan, grateful this evening for home advantage. The Bulls are the most improved side of the summer and can mount an even stronger challenge next year, albeit without Brian Smith, their Australian-bound coach.

Smith is the game's prime alchemist. Base talents have been transformed under him at Odsal. He leaves his legacy in safe hands in Matthew Elliott and Graeme Bradley, the inspirational Australian back. "In the past couple of games, we've been a bit low key, but we're through that and are fully capable of stopping Wigan," Bradley said.

Several rugby union coaches will be urging on Bradford, the sooner to get their hands on Wigan's numerous luminaries. Indeed, the next occasion that Henry Paul, of Wigan, and Robbie, of Bradford, his brother, oppose one another will be in December, for Bath and Harlequins, respectively. In league Henry is 4-1 up.

Paul Newlove will play, in spite of a foot injury, for St Helens, on the trail of a treble, in the other semi-final tomorrow. London Broncos, who have pushed St Helens close twice, have Terry Matterson, their captain, back, and Martin Offiah, who figured in the past eight Premiership finals, is determined to make it nine at Old Trafford tomorrow week, despite a painful toe.

Salford meet Hull Kingston Rovers and Keighley entertain Hull in the divisional semi-finals tomorrow. Salford is also the venue today for the Halifax Student World Cup final, between Australia, the holders, and Western Samoa, impressive newcomers to the competition.

NEWS OF THE WORLD

WHY I HATED FERGIE UNITED HERO LIFTS THE LID

ONLY IN TOMORROW'S NEWS OF THE WORLD

IN BRIEF

Victorious Ottaway joins elite

JOHN OTTAWAY, of Wyndham Dell, Norfolk, beat Andrew Kirtland, of Hundens Park, Darlington, 21-12 in the final of the English Bowling Association singles championship at Worthing yesterday.

This is the second time that Ottaway, 41, has won the title — the first was in 1989 — and makes him only the ninth player in the 91-year history of the championship to have won it more than once. He joins an elite group, headed by David Bryant, who won it six times.

It was a match of three phases, with Ottaway leading 6-1. Kirtland, 26, battling back to edge ahead three times, and Ottaway dominating the remaining ends. The turning point came at 12-12 when a drive by Kirtland went wrong and Ottaway scored three shots.

Speedy MacLean

Cycling: Craig MacLean, the Scottish sprinter who finished second in the national championship this year, yesterday brought an end to Great Britain's six-year spell in the wilderness when he qualified for the first round of the world championship in Manchester. He finished fourteenth in the 200 metres time-trial qualifier in 10.729sec, only 0.025sec outside the British record, set by Eddie Alexander, his fellow Scot, nine years ago.

Final booked

Bowls: Gail Fitzgerald, a Metropolitan Police inspector, from Haynes Park, Hornchurch, and Audrey Moore, her club colleague, reached the final of the national women's pairs championship at Royal Leamington Spa yesterday, when they beat Josie Tyers and Pat Oliver, of Blackwell, Derbyshire, 23-8.

Nicol's mettle

Squash: Peter Nicol, of Scotland, beat Chris Walker, of England, 15-8, 15-13, 13-15, 15-9 in the quarter-final of the Hong Kong Open championship yesterday.

Brazilians relish the spice of married life

SIMON BARNES



On Saturday

Calling the shots

Have you ever wondered about the announcer at cricket matches, the one who says things like "Graham Thorpe"? The present holder of the England job is Johnny Dennis. At the end of the season, he goes to Southend Pier to perform with Danny La Rue. After cricket, an area comparatively free of ambiguity, innuendo and exhibitionism, I would have thought.

Passion play

More on love: and the absorbing question of whether Dennis Rodman, the basketball player and former lover of Madonna, will get married. He is said to be considering the step with his present lady friend, a stripper. Rodman dropped a hint, rather a subtle one by his own standards, by



Love is a drug

Diego's passions have, of course, often been pharmaceutical, but the poor boy hopes to be free after his latest bout of drug rehabilitation to play for Boca Juniors in Argentina on Monday week. He has been at a clinic in Switzerland and a psychiatrist attending him says that the treatment has worked perfectly. Diego "has a profound desire to break the vicious circle of drug-taking". The first stage included putting Diego on an intravenous drip and filling him up with a "wholly natural product". Second stage: psychiatric sessions to reduce his "emotional overburdening". Third stage: trying to neutralise his obsession with drug consumption. Diego says that he is not actually cured, but the stay "gave me the tranquillity I didn't have when I was in Argentina".

turning up to a book signing wearing a wedding dress and a Madonnaesque blonde wig. He arrived in a horse-drawn carriage accompanied by four women in dinner-suits. He then lifted his veil to reveal lips both pierced and painted red. Clearly Rodman is in love. He fell in love with himself at an early age, and it is a passion to which he has remained faithful.

Iron ladies

As the American football season gets ready to rumble, we see the birth of an organisation in the United States called Women's Institute for Football Education, Nice acronym, girls. It was founded in order to help to educate and improve women's understanding of the eternal mysteries of gridiron. They have just completed a survey of 212 women, in which 40 per cent of the respondents claimed to be football fans. However, 51 per cent did not know that you get six points for a touchdown. There was greater unanimity of view over the question of how the game could be improved. Most of the women said: "More violence". No one can accuse these ladies of hypocrisy, anyway.

Boost needed

The post has been so wild this week that this column has not received a single letter. That means that the great Power Boosters competition must go on hold. Those who produce the best suggestions for the ideal pre-match refreshment for humans or for beasts will receive a bottle of Nicolas Feuillate champagne and, of course, a sample of Le Brie for your horse or rabbit. A hockey player tells me that the worst pre-match snack he ever had was nine brown splits in the pub beforehand. To his eternal regret, he can remember the match perfectly.

Water torture

Message to visitors at the US Open tennis tournament in New York: "Due to hot weather, please seek shade and drink plenty of fluids." Good advice. Water is on sale at \$4 (about £2.50) a bottle.

Handwritten text: "السلامة والسلامة"

Players pay high price for overkill in the modern game

England's World Cup campaign kicks off in Moldova tomorrow afternoon. Where will I be? Watching on the television at home like the rest of the country. I am not happy about it.

I flew down to Burnham Beeches Hotel near our training camp at Bisham Abbey on Wednesday with my teammates, Robbie Fowler, and I was given the same room I had six weeks ago, when England were based there for Euro 96. It was good to be back. None of the staff had changed and in the course of the tournament we had built up a great rapport with the people there. After the games, they would clap us back in. The last time I was there was

the morning after the Germany game. I was sad to leave then; we had played so well and come so close.

This time, the trip was much shorter and much less satisfying. Both Robbie and I knew we would have no chance even of travelling to Moldova, never mind playing. The season is two weeks old and we are both injured already. That is what three games in a week will do for you.

My involvement was limited to a chat with Glenn Hoddle and the new coaching staff. He asked how I was and said he was looking forward to working with me. I was encouraged, but it did not take the edge off my disappointment at not being able to play. Instead of boarding a plane for



Moldavia, I was boarding one for Manchester.

I know there are those who will say that, if it were Liverpool who were playing tomorrow, we would be available, but that is not true. I was feeling my hamstring before our game against Sunderland and afterwards I knew I was out. I have missed only one game for England — and I was rested, not injured, for that —

Steve McManaman, the Liverpool and England midfielder, in the first of a series of articles in *The Times* this season, argues that footballers are being asked to appear in too many matches

and this is the start of the World Cup. I would have loved to be involved.

Of course, Liverpool are protective of their international players. They pay our wages, after all, and you have to look at what happened to Jamie Redknapp to see why they do not want me or any of their players to take risks with injuries. Jamie was injured playing for England against

Scotland in Euro 96 and has not played for Liverpool since. He is still unfit, but there is no question of the club saying to me: "You're not playing for England." In the end, they left the decision to me and I feel that; if I do not get this sorted out, it could get a lot worse.

The real problem here is not my club, it is too many games for the top professionals. I know someone — usually the

England coach — says that every year, but something has got to be done about it. We are playing too much if we want to be at our best every game. In the six years since I made my debut in the Liverpool first team at the age of 18, I reckon I have played more than 250 games in league and cups — not counting friendlies and testimonials. So far, I have been lucky. I have not been injured much — a couple of knee injuries and now this hamstring — but who knows how long that luck will last?

Look at Manchester United. If they are successful this year, their players could end up playing 70 games. Even if you escape injury, there is the danger of burn-out. It is hard to be at your best when you

have slogged through the winter playing twice, sometimes three times, a week.

If it was left to me, I would play for one month, in May, and give the players the other 11 months off — but, joking aside, I can see a time coming when the players themselves will do something about this. After the Bosman case, we are aware that we have a lot more clout than we used to. Players of my generation are going to have their say. Player power will come into it.

Since Bosman, all the talk has been of the money the top players will be able to demand when they negotiate new contracts. I think there will be more to it than that. There is no reason why we should not have our say about the other

conditions of our working life. I can see players asking for — and getting — limits on the numbers of games we play or perhaps even the competitions we play in. In ten years, a top player may be contracted to play in say, 38 league matches (maybe less), six cup matches, and, perhaps, another dozen matches, including European games. I think there will be a Christmas break, not just because we want it but because we need it.

This is not greed. Far from it. We want to play and we want our teams to be successful, but we also want long careers and we want to be able to play for our countries — and we do not want to be sitting at home, injured, when a World Cup campaign begins.

FOOTBALL

Scotland introduce Ferguson to the fray

FROM KEVIN MCCARRA IN VIENNA

THIS evening, in Vienna, Scotland will once again strive to display an old knack for making themselves at home on foreign soil when the attempt to reach the 1998 World Cup finals begins with a game against Austria in group four of the European zone qualifying competition. A series of appearances in the finals of big tournaments has generally been underpinned by an away victory at the start of the qualifiers.

Such a record inspires confidence, but some apprehension lingers, principally because a dependable defence may have

never been able to resist the lure of his potential.

The attraction has been all the greater after recent form that includes two goals against Manchester United at Old Trafford, the opener whirled into the top corner from the edge of the penalty area. "That first one," McCoist said, "was the not the type you expect him to score, and he must be full of confidence just now even to attempt it."

"I believe he will go on to become a great player and it's just unfortunate for me that I won't be around to partner him then. Duncan won't turn into a new Kenny Dalglish, but I would settle for him being another Joe Jordan. He might give us the first bit of aerial threat and aggression we've had in attack since Joe's time."

At the European championship, while Ferguson was still convalescing from a groin operation, Scotland did lack a focal point in the attack. Tosh McKinlay, the left back, believed by McCoist to be the best crosser of a ball in the Bell's Scottish League premier division, seemed particularly frustrated by the absence of any worthwhile context for his expertise.

"Without the startling emergence of Ferguson," Brown said, "I would have been more than happy to keep the same team; but now I have to engage in such deliberations. Brown has teasingly alluded to Austria's loss of five goals in their most recent competitive appearance, a defeat by Northern Ireland in the qualifiers for the European championship.

Austria, though, do believe that they are on the verge of a resurgence, fostered by the bracing experience accumulated by several of their side in Germany. In European competitions, the form of the country's own clubs is also impressive, but Herbert Prohaska, the coach, may anticipate that one veteran forward will respond to an unusual incentive. Should Toni Polster score this evening, he will surpass the Austrian international record of 34 goals set by Hans Krankl. It is Scotland's aim to ensure that the historic moment is postponed for another day.



Harte, left, and Houghton get their instructions from McCarthy during training in Liechtenstein yesterday

Gould raising Welsh interest rates

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

BOBBY GOULD, as innovative a manager as Wales have had, will try anything to generate interest and enthusiasm in the rugby union-dominated Principality. It is why his players, including Ryan Giggs and Mark Hughes, took time off this week to attend the awards evening of the Wales women's team.

A small gesture, perhaps, but still significant in Gould's long-term objective. He wants to reignite the nation's passion

for football which, he fervently believes, is only a win or two away.

Victory against San Marino, who they play in a World Cup qualifying match at the National Stadium in Cardiff this afternoon, would do for starters. Then bring on Holland, at the same venue, on October 5.

That is when Gould, and the supporters, will finally be able to judge whether Wales have realistic hopes of reaching the tournament finals for the first time since 1958; whether his idiosyncratic, yet always ear-

nest, brand of man-management is suited to the international stage. "I've enjoyed every second of it," Gould, who succeeded Mike Smith a year ago, said.

"Things could easily snowball. Maybe I'm only the catalyst, but I hope I'll still be around to see all the rewards."

He has made mistakes, held his hands up and tried to rectify them. Ian Rush, the Leeds United striker, declined to join the squad for the game today after being told that he was not assured of a place, and Gary Speed, the Everton

midfield player, has been left out of the team. Gould felt that he should keep faith with the side that beat San Marino 5-0 in northern Italy in June.

"Ian made his decision, it was up to him," Gould said. "Gary was obviously disappointed — he feels he's a better player than some of those playing — but it's up to him to prove that to me."

"The biggest compliment I could be paid would be if I were to select them in my next squad and they came down here without even the guarantee of a place. People call me a maverick or bullshitter, but what about the word 'honest'?"

"That's Bob!" has negotiated increased bonuses for his players, though not in the same £2,000-a-match, £2,000-a-win bracket as their rugby counterparts. They should cash in against San Marino but, thereafter, not even Gould can predict. He only hopes.

Hamilton demands winning start

THERE can be no excuses, Bryan Hamilton, the Northern Ireland manager, admits. His team must hit the ground running if they are to stand any chance of qualifying for the World Cup finals from group nine (David Maddock writes).

Only one team does so automatically and, with Germany and Portugal as rivals, there can be no tendency towards a familiar failing, that of under-performing on home territory. In the qualifying round of the European championship, Northern Ireland performed admirably overseas, but failed to reach the finals because of results at Windsor Park.

A defeat by Latvia, in particular, cost them dearly, and, with two home games for openers, starting today with Ukraine, Hamilton wants no

repeat. "Anything can happen in this group, but, if we are to have any chance, then we must win all of our home games," he said. "It was so frustrating that we didn't do that in Euro 96, because we missed out by just one point."

Hamilton has assembled a good young side with plenty of promise, but, as Michael Hughes, the winger, says, the time has come to translate that into tangible results. "We can't go on forever being a promising team," he said. "We must prove we have it in us to be winners."

Ukraine are no mugs. They were the only side to defeat Croatia in the qualifying stage of the European championship and Hamilton has plenty to ponder as he decides who will replace Barry Hunter, the injured centre half. Patrick McGibbon, a Manchester United reserve, is the likely candidate, although Steven Morrow, of Arsenal, was a late call-up and could go straight into the side.

Six points from the opening two games is a must if Northern Ireland are to face the third with any sort of optimism — a daunting trip to Germany, the European champions.

Stoke is home from home for Knypersley

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL BY WALTER GAMMIE

AUGUST, football's month of sunshine and grass, has yet to run its course and yet the Victoria Ground, home of Stoke City, may tomorrow host its last FA Cup tie. As this is the Saturday of the preliminary round, which will send 179 clubs through to the four-round qualifying competition, it is not Stoke City, of the Nationwide League first division, that will swing into Cup action — but Knypersley Victoria.

Knypersley, the Interlink Express Midlands Alliance League club, who hail from the 30,000-strong former mining community, up the road from Stoke at Congleton, will play Stewart & Lloyds, of the United Counties League, from Corby.

John Shenton, the Knypersley secretary, said: "We share with Knypersley Cricket Club, who refused to

postpone their fixture. We found that all the alternative non-league clubs where we could play were at home apart from Congleton Town, who would not let us use their ground."

"It meant the only alternative appeared to be to travel to Corby, but our chairman jokingly said 'Surely Stoke or [Port] Vale should be able to help us out', so I contacted Jez Moxey, the chief executive, at Stoke on the off chance. He said 'Make us an offer, and we came to an agreement.'"

The match's history-making potential is enhanced by Stoke's scheduled departure from the Victoria Ground, their home for 118 years, for a new site a mile away at the end of the season. Shenton said: "We've scoured everywhere and can't find any record of a Football League ground staging a preliminary round tie."

Clubs worldwide demand their pound of flesh

The modern footballer's conundrum is a pain in the buttocks — and everywhere else that the body moves. The better you are, the more you will be used, and the greater is the toll on mind and body. Sport, supposed to promote health, breaks it.

When the England players left for Moldova yesterday afternoon, there were vacant seats for ten players whose injuries ruled them out of contention for the first international, in the first month of the new season.

You think I exaggerate? Leaving aside the goalkeepers, who seem temporarily immune from the stresses and strains of the new season, this outfield team is missing:

P Neville, Adams, Howey, Le Saux — Anderson, Platt, Redknapp, Wilcox — McManaman and Fowler. In addition, there have been five withdrawals from the under-21 squad. Add the loss to Ireland of such vital components as Roy Keane and Terry

Phelan, add the trauma of Scotland waiting and hoping that Colin Hendry will be able to play through pain, and you get the domestic picture.

Wasim Akram, the Pakistan captain, pointed out during the week that England play too much cricket, and that the omission from the one-day international of Dominic Cork, 24, England's leading strike bowler, is evidence of the exhaustion and the over-use of cricket flesh and bone. Football, the world over, has the same problem.

Both the leading international governing bodies, Fifa and Uefa, have medical committees which send out warnings from time to time of the severe strain on working professionals. Both ignore their own advice in adding interminably to the fixtures, and from Brazil this week came what appears to be the ultimate in inflicting too much on too few quality players.

Last Sunday Andre, the São Paulo midfielder, and

put back three hours because it was the game chosen for television coverage.

More Brazilians, the pride of Bobby Robson's Barcelona among them, are sufferers. Ronaldo, 20, who has just recovered from a serious knee injury, was outstanding — Robson used the word "genius" — in Barcelona's 5-2 Spanish Super Cup first-leg win against Atlético Madrid last Sunday. The second leg, four days later, brought a 3-1 defeat for Barcelona, who were minus four overseas players. Ronaldo, Hristo Stichkov and Vitor Baia, the Portugal goalkeeper, will all miss Barcelona's first game of the season tomorrow.

The old adage that the English are lions in the winter, meek as exhausted lambs by the spring, no longer applies. Fatigue has set in before the onset of autumn. You wonder why? You ponder the wisdom of giving top professionals painkillers rather than protection. Money is the answer. The

crippling cost of pre-season tours is having its effect. Where England led to the Far East, Newcastle United followed, and some clubs squeezed ten pre-season games into the only month of rest — clawing back their pound of flesh from the high-salaried players.

Take Ryan Giggs. He came through his teenage years as a specifically protected species under the wing of Alex Ferguson. Yet still his limbs rebel, and still the fabric of his life seems to put him under intolerable strain. This very week Loto, an Italian sportsweek company, consolidated a £1 million, four-year sponsorship deal with Wales. Giggs was silent. Curious this, since Loto made it abundantly clear that the attraction for an Italian manufacturer in Wales was the wizard of the wing.

Bobby Gould, the Wales manager, had an explanation. "Ryan said he needed a break from the pressures of being wanted for interviews," he

said. "Mentally, players need to switch off at times." Perhaps, in truth, Giggs had to keep his counsel. In his personal life, Giggs has been Reebok's role model for three years. In the multicoloured shirts of Manchester United, he is Umbro; in the new green design of Wales, he is now Loto.

Football player, model, young man in a hurry in the queue of modern sporting millionaires, Giggs is a well-oiled symbol of our times. On and off the field, everyone wants a piece of the action; if, by the greed and the intensity with which the playing demands come and go, they break the model in the process, then football will always find another.

Maybe that was why Ferguson began this week with, forbodings over the elevation to England status of David Beckham, 21. In his manager's eyes, he is a "boy" who needs to be shielded from 1990s burn-out syndrome.

Strachan faces wrath

GORDON STRACHAN, the Coventry City assistant manager, looks certain to face severe punishment from the Football Association after causing the suspension of a reserve-team match on Thursday night.

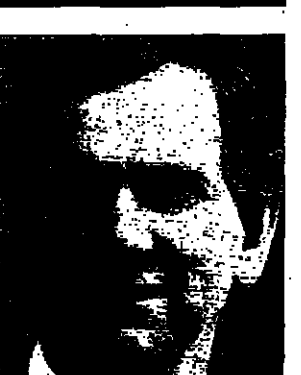
Strachan, 39, was sent off, having already been booked, for using foul and abusive language during the 1-1 draw at West Bromwich Albion in the Pontins League, but he refused to leave the field. After a prolonged stand-off, Tony Green, the referee, and his linesmen decided to take the

ball and walk off the pitch themselves.

The game was finally restarted 11 minutes later without Strachan, but the FA has already called for an urgent report of the incident.

Wolverhampton Wanderers have completed the signing of Hans Segers, the former Wimbledon and Nottingham Forest goalkeeper, on a month's contract. Segers, a free agent after being released by Wimbledon in the summer, is likely to be on the substitutes' bench for the game at Norwich City today.

ROB HUGHES



Weekend View

Narciso, the Santos defender, began a league match in Brazil, were substituted at half-time, flown by private jet to Rio de Janeiro, and then flown on to Moscow to take part in Brazil's 2-2 draw against Russia. They had been needed in two places at once; the São Paulo match had been



■ EDINBURGH

Too long and too late: Peter Stein's *Uncle Vanya* won't redeem a poor festival for theatre



■ EDINBURGH

... and nor can a fine staging redeem Gertrude Stein's opera, *Four Saints in Three Acts*

THE TIMES
ARTS

■ EDINBURGH

Christoph von Dohnányi closes the festival with the Cleveland Orchestra: review on Monday



■ RISING STAR

Have comedians, will promote: Saurabh Kakkar on the art of nurturing the Perrier winners

EDINBURGH FESTIVAL: First-rate cast for a fifth-rate opera; atavistic *Uncle Vanya*; the man who breeds comedians



Ashley Putnam (St Theresa I) and Suzanna Guzman (St Theresa II) struggle valiantly but vainly to make a silk purse from an operatic sow's ear

Adrift on a river of drivel

Well, it's not about saints and it's not in three acts. Virgil Thomson's and Gertrude Stein's opera is 95 minutes (without a break) of free association and stream of consciousness. Now stream of consciousness is fine and dandy, but it does rather depend on whose consciousness is on offer, and submitting to 95 minutes of Stein's verbal burbling is like being trapped in a saloon bar by an especially garrulous old drunk. She makes our very own — and her contemporary — Edith Sitwell sound like Goethe. At least Sitwell had Walton, a real composer. Thomson responds only with a collage of pastiche — hymn tunes, marches, popular dances and, most irritatingly, vocal-exercise patterns, pushing repeated phrases up by a semitone. His use (parody?) of church-service chant and responses makes parts of the score sound like Gilbert and Sullivan on mescaline. The musical sources are basically 19th-century, and there's scarcely a

OPERA

Four Saints in Three Acts Playhouse

15 years as music critic of the *New York Herald Tribune*, slugging off composers much more gifted than ever he was. But if America needs to work Thomson out of its system, then Houston Grand Opera has found the most

stylish way of doing so. Robert Wilson's abstract production and decor are coolly elegant in just the right way: lighting in delicate shades of ice-cream flavours, 11 fluffy sheep flying in and out, a skeleton house that catches fire, hand-walking, beautifully sculpted slow-motion movement. Cuteness is eschewed to an heroic extent, save for the compe, whose would-be ingratiating face-pulling swiftly became as irritating as the piece itself.

The cast is wonderful, and it must have been hell learning this repetitive doggerel. If

anyone could make Thomson sound like a real composer, it would be the baritone Sanford Sylvan (St Ignatius), a singer of real class. Ashley Putnam looked and sounded gorgeous as St Theresa I, and as St Theresa II Suzanna Guzman got every single word across (some might wish she hadn't). Marietta Simpson was a miracle of tactful understatement as the compe, and Graham Wilson a stentorian St Chavez. Richard Bado was the admirably crisp conductor.

RODNEY MILNES

Out with a whimper

Until now, three weeks of official celebrations had left me with memories of Neil Bartlett not happening, Robert Lepage not happening even more spectacularly, Miranda Richardson glacially pacing a surreal stage as Woolf's Orlando, and John McGrath camping up a 16th-century classic in a self-contradictory attempt to suggest that Scotland will never be free unless it bans most of the British media. Jeremy

Uncle Vanya King's

Kingston, who came on as substitute midway through the fun, clearly felt that he too should have stayed on the bench. I cannot remember the drama being worse served, not in nearly 30 years of Edinburgh-going.

Even Peter Stein's revival of *Uncle Vanya*, fine as it is in many ways, comes across as a not-very-satisfactory coda to a misbegotten symphony. Why does this lovingly downbeat affair run an hour longer than the version now on its way from Chichester to London? Is it because the great German director has elicited deeper performances from his Italian company than Bill Bryden does from his British one? Once or twice I thought so. But the real explanation is surely that the Teatro di Roma and the Teatro Stabile di Parma have combined to take a big step into the theatrical past.

It is a long time since we British stopped thinking of Chekhov in terms of ennu, melancholy atmospherics and birch trees, and embraced a sharper, wryer dramatist of the same name. But from the moment the lights go down and the birds start twittering offstage, it is clear that Stein has more traditional ideas.



Roberto Herlitzka as Vanya. The production adds little besides unnecessary atmospherics to Chekhov's classic

Light slants picturesquely through windows or doors across slumped bodies and plank floors. Offstage there are rooks, barking dogs, driving rain, thunder, howling dogs, geese and, unless I am misinterpreting some clucking stagehands, a hundred chickens on the run. Very evocative, but what does it add?

Well, it is necessary to suggest that the characters are stuck in an enervating outback. But deft, sensitive performances can accomplish that. There is no need for long, pregnant pauses or for the overemphatic acting we get from Remo Girone as Dr. Astrov. This chunky, florid, throaty figure has his moments, but he signals boredom by lumbering along so awkwardly and slowly that you might suppose he had just learnt to walk. Sonya must be mad with love to call him

poised, gentle and beautiful, as she must. Somewhat in defiance of the text, Elisabetta Pozzi herself earns those adjectives. Her plaintive, touching Sonya is one of the evening's successes, along with Meda Elena Crippa's Yelena, who meets Chekhov's challenge by being languid, lovely and mentally incisive. As for Roberto Herlitzka's wispy, wizened Vanya, he comes fully into his own at a time when most actors lose interest in the role. Forced finally to reconcile himself to life, reality and his awful brother-in-law, he shrivels into a skeletal worm, a bleached, vermicular wreck, chilling to behold. But let's not get carried away. For all its drawn-out angst, that is Stein's one original touch.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

GREAT BRITISH HOPES

Rising stars in the arts firmament SAURABH KAKKAR

Age: 26

Profession: Comedy promoter

Hidden talent: The high-profile Perrier Award shortlists half-a-dozen comedy acts at Edinburgh. This year Kakkar, representing the small company Pacific Rim, was behind four of the six — Bill Bailey, Armstrong and Miller, Dominic Holland and the winner, Dylan Moran.

What does he do, exactly? "Find new talent, help them with funding, organise tours, get sets built, co-ordinate publicity, pay everybody. Everything bar telling the jokes."

What does he look for in comics? "Once you pin that down, you cease to be any good. Just people who really make me laugh."

Family history: Kakkar hails from Surrey, the son of an architect. Distinguished ancestors? "I think my great-great-grandfather was quite good mates with Nehru's dad."

How did he get into comedy? Kakkar was a chemical engineer when he saw a situations vacant ad for a comedy promoter. He wrote off and hasn't looked back.

On his work: "What I'm good at is picking out people who are going somewhere."

KATE BASSETT



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Beware the oiks who threaten us

Roger Scruton on oikophobia, or hostility to home and inheritance

During the 1980s and 1990s, the Tories made many mistakes — such as the poll tax and the Single European Act, which might have brought electoral disaster. Throughout this period a relentless barrage of media abuse was heaped upon the Conservative Party, its policies and its leadership, and in academic common rooms Tory sympathies were generally regarded as a sign of stupidity or malice.

The Tories were portrayed by the intelligentsia as a cartel of self-interested businessmen, with no authority to speak for a "multicultural" electorate. The education system seemed to corroborate the case against the ruling party, teaching the evils of capitalism and the injustice of Western society and spouting egalitarian nonsense of the kind that only socialists believe. Yet, to the surprise of the intelligentsia, the Conservatives stayed in power.

The explanation of this fact lies not in the Conservative Party but in the forces that opposed it, many of which had been infected by a mentality which, once perceived, makes the sufferer unteachable. No adequate word exists for this frame of mind though its symptoms are instantly recognised: namely, the disposition, in any conflict, to side with "them" against "us". Being the opposite of xenophobia, I propose to call it oikophobia, by which I mean (stretching the Greek a little) the repudiation of inheritance and home. Oikophobia is a stage through which the adolescent mind normally passes. But it is a stage in which some people — intellectuals especially — tend to become arrested.

Indeed, from Lytton Strachey, through the Bloomsbury Circle, the Cambridge spies, and the postwar socialist establishment to the educational revolution of the 1960s, oikophobia has been a major force in British culture. As George Orwell pointed out, intellectuals on the Left are especially prone to it, and this has made them willing agents of foreign powers. Nor is oikophobia a specifically British tendency. When Sartre and Foucault draw their picture of the "bourgeois" mentality, the mentality of the Other in his Otherness, they are describing the ordinary decent Frenchman, and expressing their contempt for his culture and inheritance. A chronic form of oikophobia has spread through American universities, in the guise of political correctness. For that is what PC comes down to, in the end: the effort to side with whatever force is opposed to the culture and inheritance of America.

Likewise, the new humanities courses in universities, to a large extent, the product of oikophobia. Take any course in cultural, media or women's studies, and you will quickly find that the primary goal is to jettison Western values and Western civilisation — not with a view to instilling some alternative but simply so as to "deconstruct" the inheritance which, when all is said and done, is the only cultural inheritance we have. Of course, the new humanities

make a pretence at objective scholarship. But I have never met a teacher of cultural studies or women's studies who is prepared to say, still less to teach, that Western civilisation is the greatest of human achievements, or that one's country and culture are proper objects of loyalty and respect. This suggests that the roots of oikophobia lie deep in the human psyche and could not be eradicated merely by an acquaintance with obvious truths.

It was the mistake of Labour Party politicians in the 1970s and 1980s to suppose that, because oikophobia had such a voice in the schools, the universities and the media that the people would vote for it. The long flirtation with the peace movement, the constant courting of the Soviet Union, the outbreaks of republican sentiment, the frequent sneering at the law and the judiciary, the support for violent protest, and the disposition to side with the country's enemies or to ridicule its friends — all these, seen at their most colourful in the speeches of Ken Livingstone and Tony Banks, have their origin in oikophobia.

Ordinary people, what- ever their grievances, are reluctant to enter into conflict, to side with "them" against "us". Being the opposite of xenophobia, I propose to call it oikophobia, by which I mean (stretching the Greek a little) the repudiation of inheritance and home. Oikophobia is a stage through which the adolescent mind normally passes. But it is a stage in which some people — intellectuals especially — tend to become arrested.

Mr Blair is also clever. But new Labour policies pose as much of a threat to our inheritance as the old ones. Not only do the Labour benches abound in unreconstructed oikophobes ("oiks", for short) — people like Tony Banks and Ron Davies, who waste no opportunity to pour scorn on values and customs whose only merit is that they are ours. In any matter in which our national identity is at stake — be it the constitution, the powers of the European Union, the traditional curriculum or the schools which try to teach it — the party shows no desire to conserve, but only endless and muddled schemes to dismantle and destroy. Although no one will be pleased with the result of these schemes, it will be too late, once they have been put into practice, to reconsider them: oikophobia is a spiritual condition, and its goal is destruction.

Of all the President's men, he was the closest. Anthony Howard reports on the fall of Dick Morris

Most journalists left Chicago last night with a wry sense of satisfaction. Probably the most elaborately stage-managed presidential convention in American political history had blown up in its organiser's face. The resignation of Dick Morris as the President's chief strategist ("Bill's Bad Boy" in the headline of the *New York Post*) was one of those unconvincing blows that sometimes fall on the most deserving of political heads.

It was the Democrats, after all, who had done their best to make it victims' week. The tone was set from the opening night — with the appearance not only of the paralysed Jim Brady and his wife but also of the wheelchair-bound former Superman, Christopher Reeve. As if that was not enough, Vice-President Gore had delivered his tearful account of the death from lung cancer of his sister — a smoker from the age of 13. Perhaps the lesson is that you should not push these things too far. Thomas Hardy's "President of the Immortals" has a habit of taking a hand. It was as if he had resolved that, if the Democrats were so keen on victims, then he would oblige and deliver them one.

The mere timing of the revelations about Dick Morris leave little room for doubt that he must have been set up. If his relationship with Sherry Rowlands has really lasted for a year then the fact that it should have

Is Clinton's saviour now his nemesis?

surfaced on what was intended to be the climax of the convention could not help looking suspicious. But if there was an air of conspiracy about the scandal, so there was also a flavour of a certain justice. Political parties that choose to deal in the coinage of morality always do so at their peril. The Conservatives learnt that over the affair of Cecil Parkinson and Sara Keays at the Blackpool conference in 1984. It was the emphasis that the Tories had chosen to give at the time to "Victorian values" that made Lord Parkinson's resignation and flight from the conference hotel inevitable.

It was the same with Mr Morris this week, who had not only to give up his job but also to exit by a side door from the convention headquarters hotel. If the Democrats had not made "family values" the centrepiece of their debates all the week, it may be that as a "consultant", rather than a Cabinet minister, he could have survived. But all those speeches

extolling the virtues of hearth and home sealed his fate.

To be fair, even before the scandal broke, he already seemed to be getting ideas above his station. Ever since the President's fortunes began to turn round — and Mr Morris was hired immediately after the debacle of the mid-term elections in November 1994 — he had been subject to a good deal of flattering press coverage. Alas, unlike his patron, he soon began to inhale. Last week, despite claiming that he never gave interviews to journalists, he was even the guest at lunch of the full editorial board of *The Washington Post*. Nor did his appearance on the cover of *Time* magazine, with seven pages devoted to him inside, come about without his enthusiastic co-operation. Since politicians do not like sharing the limelight with backroom boys, that was already a black mark against Mr Morris with the President. He always had enemies on the

strategist entertaining a call-girl companion in an elegant hotel across the road from the White House. That is a little too near the knuckle for comfort. As with the Profumo case of 1963 there will also, no doubt, be attempts to develop the security angle. These are likely to be bogus. If the level of Mr Morris's discourse with Miss Rowlands was about life on Mars then we can probably take it that the safety of the Republic is not at risk.

What is at risk is the President's own personal reputation. Given that Mr Morris was, apart from Hillary herself, his oldest political associate, his judgment is now called in question. But the questions go beyond that. What character deficiency drew him to such an obvious lecher and braggart in the first place? And will the episode revive the "sleaze factor" that at one time looked as if it might prove the Achilles' heel of the Clinton presidency?

There is one crumb of comfort for the White House. When, during the 1964 presidential campaign, Lyndon Johnson's most valued aide, Walter Jenkins, was suddenly arrested for soliciting in the men's room of the YMCA, there was a good deal of apprehension about the scandal's impact on the election. It turned out to have none. A no doubt chastened Bill Clinton must be hoping that in today's more tolerant climate he will prove at least as lucky as LBJ.

Don't gamble with the arts

British culture is a success — and too important to be left to the lottery, says Magnus Linklater

Looking, as P.G. Wodehouse might have put it, "soiled and crumpled, like a Roman Emperor who has sat up too late over the Palatine wine", Edinburgh stumbles into the daylight after the extravaganzas of its 50th Festival. Three weeks of non-stop culture is enough to induce softening of the brain. But from what I can remember, it was a pretty good party. What is more, it seems that the bill will be met. Artists of the calibre of Andras Schiff and Thomas Zehetmair, orchestras like the Cleveland and the New York Philharmonic, to say nothing of Peter Stein's three-hour *Uncle Vanya* in Italian, have been here, been paid, and will come again. This has been the most successful Festival and Fringe ever, with more sold-out events, more visitors from overseas and more sponsorship revenue than in any previous year. It was also the most expensive. With no increase in public subsidy, it had to find a 25 per cent increase in business sponsorship, and a 15 per cent rise in ticket sales to close the funding gap. A resolute decision to hold prices down meant that one could listen to Claudio Abbado conducting Schoenberg for only £5 — a seat that would have cost £250 in Salzburg; in consequence, the financial pressure on Brian McMaster, the Festival's director, was ferocious and the increased cigarette consumption on his lungs unquantifiable.

Edinburgh is a success story, a 50-year cultural endeavour that has more than fulfilled the expectations of its founders back in 1947. But it is not necessarily a reliable guide to the state of the arts in Britain today. If we step out of the Festival spotlight, into the darker areas that lie towards the back of the cultural stage, a rather different picture begins to emerge. Talking to the heads of arts councils in England, Wales, Northern Ireland and Scotland, one comes away with a strong impression of apprehension. There the talk is of frozen budgets and local government cutbacks, of struggling theatre and hard-pressed orchestras. This is remarkable, if only because it is happening at a time when lottery money is pouring into the coffers, in some cases doubling



annual budgets. Money has always been the table talk of the arts world, but since the lottery element fundamentally affects the cultural climate of Britain, it is worth examining whether it is simply the case, as Arnold Bennett said, that pessimism, when you get used to it, is just as agreeable as optimism.

Here, as they say, I have to declare an interest. It is five months since I took on the job of chairman of the Scottish Arts Council and began to understand something of what Sir Alan Peacock refers to as *Homo Quango*. That has meant in part learning to button my lip — an activity that comes unnaturally to a journalist — but also understanding the dynamics of dealing with government funds while remaining at arms length from Government. Lord Lind, the Arts Minister in Scotland, referred to the Arts Council as a buffer state or perhaps a cordon sanitaire. He meant it kindly, but neither is a particularly comfortable place to be.

This is an edgy time for the arts in Britain: not just because the impact of the lottery is still being absorbed, but because the approach of an election has begun to concentrate minds on the role that the arts should play in

Britain and the level of support they deserve. The argument is one I remember listening to for as long as I can remember, but it is still an embattled cause, resisted by successive Treasuries. If not by individual ministers. And yet it is persuasive: not only are the arts the heart of a nation, they are increasingly its pulse. In the UK as a whole they employ 649,000 people, twice the number of bus drivers or postal workers. Between 1981 and 1991 there was a 34 per cent increase in the numbers employed by the "cultural sector". It is the third biggest earner of foreign currency after financial services and pharmaceuticals. The Edinburgh Festival generates nearly £80 million through direct and indirect expenditure to the economy. An investment of £500,000 in the visual arts generates a turnover of £60 million. And so on.

Recently Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, recognising the untold benefits brought to Scotland by movies such as *Braveheart* and *Rob Roy*, put his weight behind the founding of new venture intended to breathe life into the Scottish film industry — one that seems already to be reaping benefits in encouraging new talent. The tourist industry alone

has notched up a record year simply by virtue of the extra visitors drawn by the prospect of treading the moors where Mel Gibson led the Scottish army to victory. That attitude could easily be translated to the arts as a whole, given the talents of British theatre, British art and British music. Yet what we have seen in recent years have been standstill budgets, and, perhaps more seriously, local government cutbacks.

The effect has been felt mainly in those areas which rarely hit the headlines, but are frequently the bedrock of cultural activity. One of them is regional theatre, the grass roots of arts activity, the place where talent is traditionally nurtured. Cuts here affect the arts cycle at a critical point, making it far more difficult for young actors to progress from training ground to the big stage. As Lord Gowrie, chairman of the Arts Council of England, puts it: "How do you get from there to here?" But with a funding cut in real terms of £5 million in the current financial year in England, something has had to give. In Scotland, standstill budgets have led to similarly harsh decisions. We are not, of course, alone.

Germany, which we always cite as the model of public subsidy for the arts, has found itself forced into the kind of retrenchment that has long been familiar here. The Schiller Theatre in Berlin, one of the most famous in Europe, has closed. The Hamburg State Opera is looking to private funding to close the gap left by a reduction in municipal support. All over the country local orchestras are cutting their programmes.

In Britain, we are grappling with a very different problem: the lottery, a vast avalanche of money, some £240 million in England, £26 million in Scotland — more than our entire funding budget. It offers glittering opportunities, but poses an undoubted threat. Treasuries, whichever government they serve, will question severely any request to increase government funding for the arts at a time when all this extra money has become available. Ministers, approached for funding, will naturally ask whether the lottery might not be the answer. Even arts councils, bound by the doctrine of "no substitution", will look to see whether the guidelines which govern lottery funding could not be stretched a little to save a favourite project.

Hitherto the lottery has been used strictly for capital projects — shoring up old buildings, buying instruments, installing new equipment and so on. Next week, however, the Arts Council of England announces the shape of its programme for stabilisation funding — a means of restructuring arts organisations and placing them on a long-term footing.

Scotland has submitted its own proposals. This, together with the ability to fund new projects, foster talent, and improve access, is a major step forward.

But it would be a disaster if governments — this one or whichever follows it — began to see the lottery as an excuse to back out of their commitment to the arts. The lottery can open up new and exciting territory, but it needs the backing of the State to do so. It cannot, nor should it, be a substitute for the basic infrastructure on which the arts rest. As the National Heritage Select Committee recently recommended, money should be maintained to all four arts councils in real terms every year. It would be a poor reflection on Britain if we went down the route of New Zealand, where the lottery now accounts for 80 per cent of arts funding and government has virtually opted out.

The arts are a mature industry as well as being the badge of a civilised nation. As such they need the support and enthusiasm of the State. That is the double message that needs to be reinforced, however tempting the alternatives may be.

Express exit

RUMOURS were flying around Express Newspapers last night about the future of Sue Douglas, fiery Editor of the *Sunday Express*. Is she about to go the same way as the employees she was recently accused of discarding like toffee wrappers?

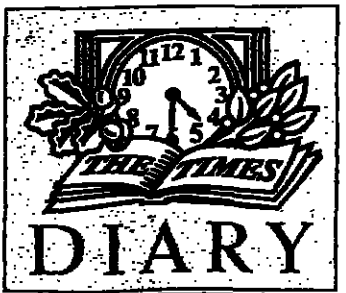
Ms Douglas, who was holidaying with her family on a remote Scottish island, was being helicoptered home to attend a



Douglas going, going...?

series of crunch meetings next week in which "the future of the paper will be discussed". It is believed that Lord Hollick, managing director of the paper's parent company, has decided to introduce a seven-day operation with *Daily Express* Editor Richard Addis as Editor-in-Chief of both titles, Ian Monk to become Editor of the *Daily Express* and Mark Palmer, currently number four at the *Daily Express*, to head the *Sunday Express*. Staff will work for both titles but the talk is that few of Douglas's apparatchiks are safe and 90 job cuts are in the offing across the group. It is expected that Douglas will be moved so far sideways she will feel forced to quit.

"Sue has not been sacked, she works for us," insisted Stephen Grabiner, executive director of newspapers for the group, but added mysteriously: "No decisions have been taken about anyone's future. I asked Sue to come back from holiday to attend some important meetings next week and she agreed." Asked if her job was safe, he said the only two people who could say that their jobs were guaranteed were Lord Hollick and



Lord Stevens of Ludgate, the chairman.

● *The Health and Safety Commission, former vigilante, has issued a report on the dangers of inappropriate footwear. Protect Your Feet warns that "bunny rabbit slippers" are a public hazard because of the attached floppy ears. One hapless workman fell down a flight of stairs and broke a leg.*

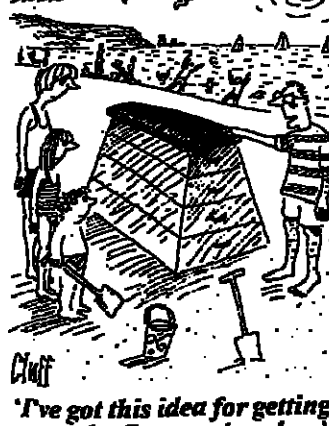
Knockout

GRAB a ring-side seat for the launch party of *Punch* magazine next week if you can. There promises to be an ugly encounter between its proprietor, Mohamed Al Fayed, and a man whose name sticks more than any other in the Egyptian's crew — Michael How-

ard, the Home Secretary. Al Fayed can't abide Howard, who has denied him British citizenship. Yet Stewart Steven, appointed by Al Fayed to chair *Punch's* publishing company, is one of Howard's best friends. Steven must have invited Howard to the party, and no one could possibly believe that Al Fayed would have insisted on vetting the guestlist.

Pitch invasion

SUBVERSIVE elements have

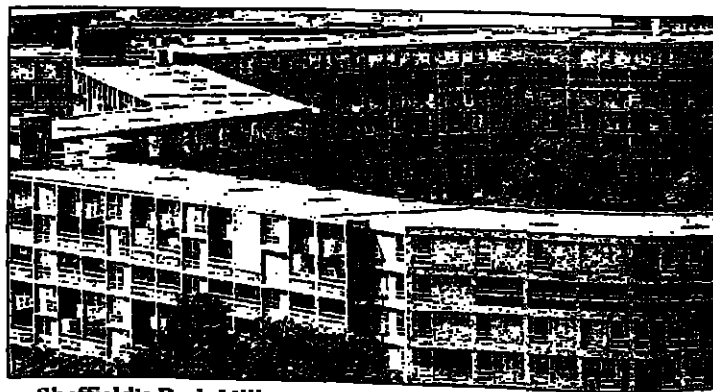


'I've got this idea for getting onto the German beach...'

thrown tomorrow's opening day of the Spanish football season into turmoil. The champions, Atlético de Madrid, have had problems with their pitch and been forced to beg their hated rivals, Real Madrid, to let them play at the famous cauldron of the Santiago Bernabeu stadium. This is somewhat akin to Everton going cap in hand to Liverpool, except Castilian football rivalries make those of Merseyside look like schoolyard banter. The problem? Millions of worms have been covoring undetected under the turf for over a week, turning it into a ploughed field.

New hair

SOMETHING'S up with Tony Blair's hair. Pictures of him on the Coronation Street set in Manchester yesterday showed a man with wild and frizzy hair. According to Michael Rasser, a senior stylist at the salon Michaeljohn, which once gave the Labour leader a trim at home in Islington, this condition is not uncommon in the summer and is hastened by the drying effect of chlorine in swimming pools and baking the uncovered head in the sun. "We call it Rytiva hair," he said. The solution, I am told, is a hair pack. "For a modest sum he could



Sheffield's Park Hill: among proposals for Grade II* status

buy our wonder mark and slap it on for three minutes. Then he should get a trim to get those scruffy, frizzy ends off."

Mod con

THE Prince of Wales and fellow architectural traditionalists should steer clear of Sheffield. English Heritage is planning to recommend that Park Hill, a council estate housing 2,000 people, be awarded listed status. The 1980s edifice, built on a ridge dominating the city skyline and likened to a medieval fortress, will be Britain's largest modern listed building.

It is expected that Park Hill will be recommended for the coveted Grade II* status by English Heritage when it identifies a new crop of postwar buildings in a proposal to Virginia Bottomley, the National Heritage Secretary, on Monday. Harold Macmillan once said the estate would "draw the admiration of the world", but now opinions are mixed. Reg Balderson, chairman of the Park Hill tenants' association, is blunt: "I think it's a diabolical suggestion. The place is an eyesore. And I should know. I've lived here since 1960."

P.H.S



ON FROM CHICAGO

Bill Clinton offers a centrist message for a second term

Once again the final morning of the Democratic National Convention has witnessed political drama. Four years ago Ross Perot abruptly abandoned his putative candidacy hours before the then Governor Bill Clinton was due to give his oration. That withdrawal, and the speech which followed it, propelled what had been an unsure campaign into one with a 20-point lead. The shift was strong enough to decide the election despite the belated re-entry of the Texan billionaire.

The sudden departure of Dick Morris, a figure close to the President but little known by the public, is unlikely to have anything like such an impact. But it is a reminder that scandal remains the Achilles heel of the well-oiled Clinton re-election effort.

The resignation of Mr Morris was particularly ironic given that President Clinton's acceptance speech stuck so closely to the themes his chief strategist had pressed over the past 18 months. It was centrist, in parts distinctly conservative in tone, and very different from the sweeping promises made by the same man in 1992. With its pledges of targeted tax cuts for education, home ownership, and the employment of those currently on welfare rolls, it could easily have been given by a number of Republican candidates in the post war era.

That, of course, was the intention. Mr Clinton plans to run from his base in the White House, not the Democratic Party. He cheerfully took credit for numerous measures passed by the Republican Congress as if they had been his own. Failures in his first two years, such as the health care debacle, were ignored. Even unalloyed successes that have aroused some public animosity, such as the ratification of the North American Free Trade Agreement were bypassed. Mr Clinton's ability to overcome adversity and reincarnate himself as a politician has become justly legendary.

As confirmation of his comeback the president received the votes, of all 4,288

delegates present. This is the first time this has happened to a member of his party since Franklin Roosevelt successfully sought his second term in 1936. As Roosevelt was the last Democrat to win re-election by any sort of margin, this is a precedent that the Clinton camp has fostered all week.

In truth, so much has changed between the 1930s and 1990s that beyond their party affiliation little comparison can be made between the two figures. In 1936 some 90,000 people squeezed into Franklin Field, Philadelphia, to hear President Roosevelt defend four years in which he had advanced economic redistribution, introduced regulation of the money markets, and ushered in welfare legislation. In his remarks he attacked the "privileged princes" and the "royalists of the economic order" while calling for more government activism. This was hardly the message that Mr Clinton, toast of the stock market and fresh from accepting the repeal of New Deal entitlements for the poor, could offer in Chicago.

Nonetheless, the President can give a spirited account of himself. The mood in the United States is sharply more conservative and sceptical of Washington than it was even in Ronald Reagan's time. Had Mr Clinton not recognised that and moved to accommodate it, he would have been consigned to electoral oblivion.

By charging to the centre he can exercise influence on the degree and details of the reforms that the new congressional majority wants to introduce. He was never a devotee of liberalism in the manner of Mario Cuomo or Edward Kennedy. He may be perfectly comfortable with the positions he has now adopted. The balance of probability suggests that they will ensure four more years in the Oval Office. Given its dire internal state the Democratic party can hardly ask more of him. However, one cannot but wonder what Franklin, never mind Eleanor, Roosevelt would have thought of this transformation in American politics.

THE PRINCE'S TRUST

A sensitive heir will enhance the monarchy

A dark chapter for the Royal Family closed this week with the final formalities of the Prince of Wales's divorce. A marriage that seemed to promise a new confidence to the House of Windsor led, instead, to private hurt and the tarnishing of a precious public institution. Confidence in the survival of the monarchy after the present Queen has been shaken. Calm reflection is difficult when emotions are raw but a clearer eye gives cause for hope. Sensitivity now, and vision in the future from the Prince of Wales could underpin the future of the monarchy, and with it the stability of the State.

The Prince of Wales has, like his predecessor a century ago, had a long apprenticeship. The nation has been supremely fortunate that the Queen has reigned for so long and looks set to do so with undiminished energy and grace for years to come. Her achievement is all the more remarkable given the accelerating pace of social change during her reign. The Prince of Wales has had to find a role, necessarily a preparation, but substantial in itself. He has done so in a way that demonstrates a keen appreciation of our changing culture.

Through his involvement in charity, not least The Prince's Trusts, he has played a prominent role in redefining the monarchy and strengthening its position as a focus of civic and national loyalty outside the politics. The historian Frank Prochaska has argued that "by allying itself to prominent philanthropic causes, the monarchy has raised its prestige". The Prince, by his efforts, raised appreciably more than five times his own income in charitable donations last

year. His efforts created jobs, alleviated poverty and provided hope.

The Prince's contribution has changed attitudes as well as improving lives. He has helped revitalise the spirit of voluntarism which has been weakened by the twin influences of the over-mighty state and possessive individualism. And he has focused his efforts on the marginalised, in inner cities and ethnic minorities. The Prince's practical work to improve race relations has also found expression in his aspiration to defend all faiths, not just the Anglican Church into which he was born. His words may not have been altogether wise but his impulse was open and modern. It echoes, after a fashion, the example set by Edward VII, who did much to overcome anti-Semitism at the turn of the century.

Forward-looking in social terms, the Prince has also been careful to speak with a conservative voice on culture which is at one with those so often left voiceless in social debates. Architects keener to please themselves than the public and those careless of our language have been gently reproved by the Prince. By virtue of his birth he is uniquely sensitive to the nation's heritage, built and spoken, and has defended it for all.

The part of our heritage which the Prince has given the greatest thought to defending is, of course, the Crown. In exploring how to modernise the monarchy with the Way Ahead Group he has shown vision and sensitivity to the public mood. If the Prince shows the same sensitivity to public feeling in all his dealings then there is no reason to believe that he will be anything other than the fine monarch his talents promise.

KEEP A WATCH

Danger, when man makes time for Vanity

Why, one might ask, does anyone wear a Rolex watch any more? After a spate of muggings and car break-ins, particularly in the capital, it seems that leaving the house with a smart chronometer on the wrist is asking for trouble. Of course, there are still those who refuse to be daunted, who balk at acceding to the idea of London becoming as dangerous as Lima. But there is a deeper motivation at stake, and it has to do with the adornment of the male.

Rich women, by and large, have given up wearing very precious jewellery on the streets. If they want to flaunt their wealth, they are more likely to do so by carrying a Chanel or Prada handbag and wearing Manolo Blahnik shoes. The second-hand value of these is, of course, negligible, so they can walk in safety.

Their husbands have a problem, though. Unlike the Spanish or Italians, British men would not be seen dead carrying a handbag. And one pair of expensive lace-ups is much like another. A good pair of cufflinks could be seen as a status symbol, but paradoxically if they are big enough to be noticed they are likely instantly to disqualify their owner by being too flash. So what remains? Wedding and signet rings are undistinctive. The only hope is a chunky, preferably gold, watch. But Rolexes, because they are both so rare and so well made, have a huge second-hand value, which makes them perfect targets for thieves.

It is unfair that men do not have the

chance to dress as creatively as women. Their rules are so prescribed that the difference between a well dressed man and the rest can be measured in minutiae such as the number of buttons on his cuff, the exact shade of herringbone weave in his grey suit, or the thickness of his tie. Like the tiniest of movements in a Japanese Noh play, these codes signal to other men in the most discreet way the wealth and taste of the wearer.

But many men must yearn for the days when dandies and peacocks were the rage. And a few centuries before that, rich men were allowed to wear jewellery to add to the richly embroidered brocade and velvet of their dress. They could boast a jewelled clasp to hold a cloak together, a finely decorated sword, scabbard or bow. Even then, though, the items of adornment had at least to appear to be functional too.

That is the appeal of the watch. From the fob watch worn by Victorians and Edwardians to the Rolex or Patek Philippe of today, men can take pleasure in adorning themselves while also pretending that the timepiece is a purely practical item. They can marvel at the precision engineering that makes their mechanical watch nearly as accurate as the £10 quartz version available from any street market. If that secret pleasure is to be denied them, heaven knows what they will do. The only discreet — and therefore safe — form of beautification left to them may be a diamond stud in the navel, a different form of button display altogether.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Prison Service failures point to the need for change

From Sir Michael Davies

Sir, Like many other present and former judges of the Supreme Court I have publicly criticised the Home Secretary, particularly in relation to his sentencing policies. However, contrary to the bleating of his opponents as regards the "remand time as part of sentence" fiasco, he surely deserves our grateful thanks for his successful damage-limitation exercise (report, August 30; letters, August 26, 28).

Pending the full judgment next week it seems to me that the Prison Service made three gross errors in a matter of grave public importance involving potentially vast expenditure. They accepted without question the opinion of tame lawyers at the Home Office. They then acted precipitately. They did not make sure that the Home Secretary knew what they were up to before they stuck the knife in.

Once he became aware of the wound the Home Secretary acted promptly and (as the High Court has found) correctly to stop the bleeding.

Heads must roll over this — but not Mr Howard's.

Yours truly,

MICHAEL DAVIES,

Third Floor South,

6 Stone Buildings,

Lincoln's Inn, WC2.

August 30.

From Mr Brian Landers

Sir, The suggestion (letter, August 28) that the Prison Service be more firmly integrated into the Home Office and be run by career civil servants is a recipe for continued mismanagement. Numerous independent reports — Mounthatten, May, Lygo, Woolf — highlighted a chain of management failures by career civil servants long before the service became an agency.

In practice agency status has changed very little. It is worth noting, for example, that both the area manager and operational director responsible

for Whitemoor at the time of the IRA escapes were civil servants with no operational experience doing a tour of duty in the Prison Service before returning to the corridors of power.

When I suggested to colleagues in the Prison Service two years ago that sentence calculation should be automated a career civil servant told me that it was "too complicated to computerise". The result is that ten days after the new guidelines were issued on August 15 the service was still not sure how many inmates had been let out, how many could have been and how much it would all cost.

It is revealing to contrast the lamentable management systems here with the startling progress made by the Scottish Prison Service, where agency status has been embraced enthusiastically.

The problems of the service will be resolved only by dividing the organisation into manageable pieces and then separating them totally from the Home Office, along the lines of the current police authorities. That, however, would mean the Home Office losing three quarters of its employees, with a consequent reduction in career opportunities at the top.

Perhaps the answer to that is to merge the rump of the Home Office, less the Immigration Service, into a full Ministry of Justice. After all, the whole sentence calculation problem arose because the Home Office and the Lord Chancellor's Department have never been able to agree on a way of ensuring that convicted criminals know before they leave court exactly when they can expect to leave prison.

Yours faithfully,
BRIAN LANDERS
(Director of Finance,
Prison Service, 1993-96),
16 Briarbank Road,
Ealing, W13,
August 30.

Jordan bread subsidy

From the Director of the Jordan Information Bureau

Sir, Your report of August 19 and Dr El-Ghonnem's letter of August 23 share some misconceptions. It is true that His Majesty King Hussein stated that disturbances would be met with an iron fist. However, the troops sent in after the riots broke out exercised maximum restraint while the rioters inflicted great damage to their fellow citizens and on state property. Thank heavens that there were no casualties.

Bread prices were raised because of a ballooning subsidy and were enforced following a two-month discussion in the media and Parliament. The Government ensured that compensation in the form of salary rises would go a long way towards alleviating the pressures on the poorer segments of society. The National Aid Fund is also working towards that purpose, as well as other public and private institutions.

Contrary to your August 19 report, the lower house of Parliament was not dissolved. Its summer extraordinary session was constitutionally ended, following a boycott by a number of MPs, and MPs are in constant contact with the PM and ministers. At a meeting with members of the lower house on August 22 the King stated there would be a comprehensive review of the situation.

Rioters who have been held will face the courts in due course. Jordan will

not roll back Parliament or the pluralism which the country enjoys, and Parliament will reconvene at the beginning of October, as the constitution stipulates.

While recognising the need for directing development towards the deprived regions of the country, the Government continuously endeavours to undertake public projects within its available means. Targeting £7 million towards the bread subsidy in Karak alone (as Dr El-Ghonnem suggests) would create more of the anomalies and abuse which the price rise was intended to remove.

Faithfully yours,
BASSAM J. ASFOUR,
Director,
Jordan Information Bureau,
11-12 Buckingham Gate SW1,
August 23.

From Mr Mohamed A. El-Erian

Sir, Janet Bush's article of August 20, "Jordan placed on breadline", missed two important points.

First, that Jordan's sensible effort to stem waste of public funds was accompanied by measures to protect its citizens, especially the poor, from the impact of the higher prices.

Second, that the subsidy reform is part of Jordan's impressive medium-term economic adjustment and reform program rather than a "short-term decision made under the pressure of unrealistic IMF deadlines".

The recent changes to the bread subsidy system in Jordan are neces-

From Mr A. A. Pelling

Sir, The distinction between operational (Prison Service) and policy (Home Secretary) responsibilities should not be sustained. The 1968 Fulton committee report on the Civil Service tried to overcome this dangerous separation that had led to the widespread accusation that elitist policy-makers were out of touch with managerial realities.

The creation of executive agencies reintroduced the distinction and gave it formal status. But in doing so it set up traps for ministers and officials whenever contentious issues or quick-moving events emerged.

Perhaps Peter Kiddle's advice to incoming ministers (August 27) could extend to so-called executive functions being brought back within the direct charge of elected and accountable ministers.

Yours sincerely,
A. A. PELLING
(Under-Secretary, Department
of the Environment, 1980-92),
Reform Club, Pall Mall, SW1,
August 30.

From Mr Charles Gladwin

Sir, May I ask a hypothetical question about the recent release of 537 prisoners before their time? I say hypothetical because I am sure that all those released have been converted to the path of righteousness and will never offend again, but just suppose one of them were unable to resist the temptation to stray.

If they were to commit a criminal act against another person before their original release date, would the victim be able to sue the Prison Service?

Yours,
C. R. GLADWIN,
23d Mount Zion,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent,
August 30.

sary to discourage wasteful consumption (including using bread as animal fodder) and to reduce the border smuggling that thrives on selling highly subsidised bread to neighbouring countries, courtesy of the Jordanian taxpayer.

These changes are being accompanied by a number of steps to protect Jordanian citizens from the impact of the higher bread prices — a crucial fact that should have been mentioned in Ms Bush's article.

Specifically, cash compensation is being paid, with higher transfers to the low-income groups receiving assistance through the National Aid Fund. Jordan's subsidy reform is yet another indication of the authorities' commitment to improving the economy while protecting the most vulnerable segments of the population.

As noted by Ms Bush, reform efforts have already yielded important results over the last few years: a sustained annual growth rate of 6 per cent, lower unemployment, inflation contained to 4 per cent, and increasing international reserves.

With the continuation of these efforts, Jordan is well placed to sustain high economic growth and improve the welfare of its people.

Sincerely,
MOHAMED A. EL-ERIAN
(Acting Director,
Middle Eastern Department,
International Monetary Fund,
Washington DC 20431,
August 23.

tedly it destroyed much of Afghanistan and caused millions of deaths. But no doubt it also destroyed the Russians' sense of invincibility, and demoralised the Russian Army. The effects of this are being now seen in Chechnya.

Does not the war in Chechnya, like the Afghan war before it, show that the might of the Russian Army is after all a myth, created by the Russians and the West to frighten us all?

Yours sincerely,
N. A. SABERI
(Chairman, Anglo-Afghan Circle),
75 Haldon Road, SW18,
August 23.

Football blues

From Mr Ivor Morgan

Sir, So the Deputy Governor of the Bank of England is finding that life has changed now that Manchester City have been relegated from the Premiership? ("From birth to Bank, I can't kick my City", August 28).

Deflation, depression, falling interest, and a slump in exchange rates: as a further-education lecturer (retired) who follows Bristol Rovers and Lincoln City I can assure him that things could be even worse.

Yours sincerely,
IVOR MORGAN,
26 May Crescent, Lincoln,
August 28.

Bowled over

From Mr J. R. Aspinall

Sir, I was pleased to see that Chris Lewis is keen to play for England again (letter, August 30). After 1 for 264 in 71 overs in two Tests against Pakistan he must be due for a wicket.

Yours faithfully,
J. R. ASPINALL,
72 Woodcote Valley Road,
Purley, Surrey.

Weekend Money letters, page 39

Because of the delays resulting from the postal strikes it would be useful, where possible, if letters intended for publication could be faxed to 0171 782 5046.

No enviable lot for women of Athens

From Ms Lynn Hecht Schafman

Sir, I disagree strongly with the view of Mr Braun, the Dean and Tutor in Ancient History at Merton College, Oxford (letter, August 29), that when Pericles said "the greatest glory of a woman is to be least talked about by men", he was expressing his deep respect for womankind.

Women in classical Athens enjoyed no meaningful respect. These women were divided into essentially three classes: slaves, prostitutes and the female relatives of male citizens. The latter group are the women to whom Pericles referred, although ironically he was himself very publicly involved with a courtesan so intellectually and politically astute that her name, Aspasia, was on everybody's lips, which is how we know it.

For the wives and daughters of Athenian citizens life was not an enviable lot. These women could not themselves be citizens, they had almost no legal rights, and they lived sequestered in the women's quarters of their homes, like the Syrian women Mr Braun describes.

In the United States there was until recently a saying analogous to Pericles's that a respectable woman's name appeared in the newspaper only three times: when she was born, when she married, and when she died. But as a wise judge wrote in the 1960s when invalidating a law that barred women from certain types of lucrative employment, ostensibly to protect them from the harsh realities of life, a pedestal can also be a cage.

The kind of respect enjoyed by women who have no legal existence and whose actual existence may not even be acknowledged by those outside the family is hollow indeed.

Yours sincerely,
LYNN HECHT SCHAFFMAN
(Attorney-at-law),
Legal Defense and Education Fund,
99 Hudson Street,
New York, NY, 10013,
August 29.

A small step

From Mr W. John Parkman

Sir, The announcement (Social News, August 27) of guests and others attending the forthcoming Women of the Year Lunch in aid of the Greater London Fund for the Blind makes repeated use of the prefix Ms against Miss or Mrs.

Could it be that at long last Ms is achieving par with Mr, making preliminary declaration of marital status irrelevant? If this should be the intention of the executive lunch committee it is to be commended. Perhaps the day of Mr and Ms is not so very far away after all.

Yours truly,
W. J. PARKMAN,
Hyde Orchard,
Weston under Penyard,
Ross-on-Wye,
Hereford and Worcester,
August 29.

Late motherhood

From Mr Stephen Shaw

Sir, Dr Stafford raises a number of issues concerning later childbirth ("Good news for older mums", August 22) including whether older mothers are likely to feel more or less sexy after childbirth, the effect on their relationship with their partners and the disruption caused by increased housework.

One question not posed is what the consequences might be for the child's development, especially in later years. Is this regarded as a relevant consideration?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN SHAW,
27 West Heath Drive, NW11,
August 22.

York thunderbolt

From Mr Colin M. Watkins

Sir, I was a member of the General Synod of the Church of England when it met at York University in July 1984. This meeting included the Friday on which David Jenkins was consecrated Bishop of Durham and the night when York Minster was struck by lightning (letters, August 24).

On the following day some synod members thought that this event was God's response to David Jenkins's appointment. Others thought that God was aiming at the General Synod — and missed!

Yours faithfully,
COLIN M. WATKINS,
Old Stables, Quays Barns,
Risby, Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk,
August 24.

Sit still vac?

From Mr Simon Preston

Sir, My colleague, seeking a husband and wife as caretakers on his estate, was told by the advertising department of a leading national magazine that he may not, in an advertisement for the posts, use the words "man", "woman", "husband", "wife" or "married couple".

Can anyone suggest how he is supposed to find what he is looking for?

Yours faithfully,
SIMON PRESTON,
76 Shoe Lane, EC4A,
August 28.

OBITUARIES

ERSKINE CHILDERS

Erskine Childers, Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations, died of a heart attack in Luxembourg on August 25 aged 67. He was born in Dublin on March 11, 1929.

Author and broadcaster, as well as international civil servant, Erskine Childers, who died shortly after making a speech to the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA), had a long career in the service of the UN and was the author of a number of thought-provoking works on the future of the organisation and of international relations.

With Sir Brian Urquhart, Childers was co-author of several studies for the reform of the United Nations so that it would no longer be constrained by the self-interest of the major Western nations. He believed that the next Secretary-General should be a woman from a small country, and he was campaigning energetically for Mary Robinson, the President of Ireland.

Erskine Barton Childers belonged to an interesting family of English origin but with many ramifications. His father, Erskine Hamilton Childers, who died in circumstances uncannily similar to those of his son's own death, became President of Ireland in 1973 after a ministerial career as a member of de Valera's Fianna Fail party.

His grandfather, Robert Erskine Childers, was the author of the classic spy tale *The Riddle of the Sands*, a book that predicted the First World War and warned of the dangers of a German invasion of England. He had started out as a House of Commons clerk and ended his life in 1922 before a firing squad of the Irish Free State Army when he sided with the rebel Republicans who had refused to accept the Anglo-Irish Treaty of 1921 conferring Dominion status on the newly created State.

Other progenitors included Professor Robert Caesar Childers of University College London, the great orientalist, who proved that Sinhalese was an Indo-European language. Another was the first and last Lord Eardley who, as Mr Sampson Gideon, lent money to King George III and was the first Jew to be raised to the peerage.



Erskine Barton Childers's mother was an American whom his father had met and married while still an undergraduate at Cambridge. The gradual breakdown of this marriage made a sad background for his early life, which was spent at school at Newtown in Waterford and later at Trinity College Dublin where he read modern languages and history. He went on to study political science at Stanford University in California, specialising in international organisations.

After a few years as a trainee manager with Qantas Airways in Australia, Childers pursued his inter-

est in the Muslim/Arab world as a broadcaster and writer. In his works *Common Sense about the Arab World* (1960) and *The Road to Suez* (1961) he answered those who had sought to demonise the Egyptian leader Colonel Nasser.

Childers admired the cultural inheritance of the Arab world and was conscious of how much Europe owed to it. Despite having some Jewish ancestry he seems to have had little sympathy for the state of Israel. He broadened his interests to Africa and produced a number of interesting documentaries for the BBC concerning

that continent. It helped that he had a pleasing, well-modulated voice.

From 1967 to 1990 Childers worked full-time for the United Nations. This afforded him an outlet for the highly developed sense of public service that was his family inheritance. For a time he was based in Bangkok where his remit included aid and development for every country from Korea to Turkey. He pioneered the technique of propagating the results of development programmes so that one country could learn from another. In 1976 he was called to headquarters in New York as director of information in the colourful administrator of the UN Development Programme, the American Brad Morse. It was a successful partnership. Childers became highly critical of the manner in which the main industrial nations led by the United States prevented the United Nations from exercising the global economic leadership which he maintained its founders intended. He observed that the good effects of development aid were offset by the denial of fair trading opportunities to poorer countries. "Development," he was fond of saying, "is about people; all else is technique." He was a humane man as well as a courteous one. He always remained cool whatever the pressure.

After his retirement in 1990 Childers was free to speak his mind and to voice the passion for justice for the disadvantaged world which had been the driving force of his working life. He pushed himself relentlessly, pursuing various causes in which he believed. His enthusiasm was unbounded and he had words at will. He enjoyed the broad sweep rather than exact analysis. He criticised the Gulf War which, he argued, launched to protect oil prices and profits and to smash Iraq for special reasons of realpolitik. He accused the United States, Britain and France of using their position as permanent members of the Security Council to undermine peace-keeping operations approved by the United Nations.

Having obtained a divorce from his first wife Sonia, Childers married in 1970 Mallica Vajrathorn from Thailand, a sociologist who worked with the UN. He is survived by her and their only son, and by two adopted daughters from his first marriage.

SIR RONALD LEACH

Sir Ronald Leach, GBE, former senior partner in Peat, Marwick, Mitchell, Chartered Accountants, died on August 26 aged 89. He was born on August 21, 1907.



RONNIE LEACH was best known outside the City as the man who, with Owen Stale, QC, brought out a damning report on Robert Maxwell 25 years ago. Commissioned by the Board of Trade to investigate Maxwell's management of the Pergamon Press, they concluded: "Notwithstanding Mr Maxwell's acknowledged abilities and energy, he is not in our opinion a person who can be relied upon to exercise proper stewardship of a publicly quoted company."

Maxwell fought them unsuccessfully in the courts, before staging his remarkable return as a media tycoon. But Leach never changed his own opinion. After Maxwell's death five years ago and the dissolution of his empire, Leach derived some satisfaction from being proved right. Those who had continued to do business with Maxwell should have known better, he remarked, in the light of their report which had taken two years to prepare and whose findings had been upheld in the High Court.

The Government could hardly have chosen a better inspector for the inquiry than Leach. He was one of the two colossi who bestrode the world of accountancy at that time (the other being Lord Benson), and he had done more than anyone to clean up the image of his profession. After becoming national president of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in 1969, he helped to set up the Accounting Standards Steering Committee, which he then chaired for six years as it introduced a new rigorous code of practice.

Ronald George Leach was born in London where his father worked for Hoopers, the coachbuilding firm. Educated at St Albyn's School in Dulwich, he went straight

from there to join Peat, Marwick, Mitchell as an articled clerk. Apart from the war years when he was seconded to the Ministry of Food as a deputy financial secretary, he spent the whole of his career with the same company.

The Rank Organisation was among his chief clients for many years, while he was also involved as a consultant in the mergers which produced Allied Breweries and the National Westminster Bank.

In 1966 he secured his place in the history of Peat, Marwick by becoming the first non-family senior partner, before leading the firm through the next 11 years of rapid expansion and change. At the same time he chaired or joined a wide variety of organisations and committees, including the committee on coastal flooding in 1953, the inquiry into shipping, 1967-70, and the National Theatre board, 1972-79. He was appointed CBE in 1944, knighted in 1970 and appointed GBE in 1976.

He retired from Peat, Marwick in 1977 at the age of 70, ten years before it was involved in a merger of its own to create the present company KPMG. In the same year that he retired, Lancaster University conferred on him an honorary doctorate of law. He was also invited to join the board of Samuel Montagu. Three years later, however,

he left England for Jersey, after selling his 500-acre farm near Ashford in Kent together with his pedigree herd of Jersey cattle.

But Leach retained some business interests almost until the end. These included the non-executive chairmanship of Standard Charter Bank in the Channel Islands and a seat on the board of Ann Street Brewery — the biggest company of its kind in Jersey. His only publication was *British Accounting Standards: the first ten years*, which he produced with Professor Edward Stamp in 1981.

Tall and distinguished in appearance, Leach had the gift of remaining unflustered in a crisis. It was said that his appearance in a boardroom was enough to restore calm and public confidence. Yet despite his standing as a City mogul, he always made himself available to subordinates, never lost his sense of humour and made clear his distaste of formality. He preferred to be known as Ronnie, and never Sir Ronald.

Leach, who died at his home in Jersey, had been in deteriorating health since suffering a serious fall last year. His marriage to his first wife Betty was dissolved, while his second wife Bobby died in 1994. He is survived by a son and daughter from his first marriage and by three stepdaughters and a stepson.

EDGAR MANSFIELD

Edgar Mansfield, bookbinder, died on August 10 aged 89. He was born in London on February 11, 1907.



THERE are those who arrive at art through bookbinding, and there are those who arrive at bookbinding through art. Edgar Mansfield's was the latter route, and his influence on English bookbinding in the second half of this century has been decisive.

Instead of following the purely decorative approach of most earlier practitioners, Mansfield sought to interpret the emotional content of the literary work on the book's cover. He took much of his inspiration from natural forms, but he also drew on the language of fine art, and the influence of contemporary painters — from the Surrealists to the American Abstract Expressionists — can be seen in all his work.

Mansfield's designs show a deep understanding of the possibilities and limitations of his medium. He had a clear appreciation of the natural expressive qualities of the leather he used as a covering material. A sculptor himself, he relished the tactile qualities of his materials, and would often heighten the grain and texture of the leather. He preferred to work with unpolished and unpressed goatskin, complete with surface marks and imperfections and variations of tone and colour.

Mansfield did not work on his own bindings in the department at the London School of Printing, where he taught from 1948 to 1964, but he could often be seen, between classes, making

gouges for eventual use in the tooling (the impressing of images) he applied to the surfaces of his leather covers. He was a master of the gouge; his weaving lines create powerful inner and outer forms, strongly balanced by a positive use of space. Each of the tools he made would be filed and polished to perfection, cut in brass and fitted with a wooden handle.

It was a pleasure to watch Mansfield as he sat with his sketchpad and punctiliously sharpened pencils, producing small but precise drawings, which would ultimately be incorporated into designs for his future bookbindings. He regarded the drawings, the making of the tools, and their eventual use on the bindings, as wholly integrated parts of the creative process.

Although born in London, James Frank Edgar Mansfield grew up in New Zealand. He attended Napier Boys High School before going on to Dunedin College for Teacher Training where he studied painting, sculpture and pot-

tery for a year. After that he went to Otago School of Art from 1928 to 1929.

He taught art and crafts in New Zealand until 1934, when he returned to London to study bookbinding under the direction of William Matthews at the Central School of Art and Crafts. During the war he served in the British Army in England and in India. From 1955 until 1968 he was president of the Guild of Contemporary Bookbinders (now Designer Bookbinders).

Mansfield was appointed OBE in 1979. His professional associations included membership of the German bookbinding society, Meister der Einbandkunst; he was an honorary fellow of Designer Bookbinders; and from 1980 a Fellow of the Royal Society of British Sculptors, although his sculpture was more widely known and collected in New Zealand than in Britain, where he remained known chiefly as a bookbinder.

Mansfield's failing eyesight prevented him from executing bindings in his later years, though in 1974 he did make a presentation binding for Princess Anne on the occasion of her marriage. But he never stopped drawing, and a great achievement between 1986 and 1993 was his collaboration with the Oxford bookbinder James Brockman, who executed 25 new bindings to Mansfield's designs, using tools largely made by Mansfield.

This final collection was exhibited in the King's Library of the British Museum during the winter of 1993-94.

In 1980 Edgar Mansfield married Gladys Lochard. She died in 1993. He is survived by his stepson.

DUNCAN MUNRO KERR

Duncan Munro Kerr, yachtsman, was lost at sea on August 13 aged 43. He was born on January 24, 1953.

ONE of sailing's ablest administrators, Duncan Munro Kerr was lost overboard from the yacht *Trocar* in the Channel at night in bad weather, while competing in the Royal Ocean Racing Club's Cowes to Rotterdam race. At the time of the accident *Trocar* was 27 miles off Ostend on the final leg of the race.

Although he was a barrister by profession — and a very successful one — his passion for sailing had been rapidly becoming the leading impulse in his life. A member of the Royal Ocean Racing Club since 1979, Munro Kerr was widely regarded as being a likely future Commodore of the club. As an administrator he had been expected to play an even greater role in the sport of sailing, both nationally and internationally, in the years ahead.

Born in Woking, Surrey, the second son of Diana and Andrew Munro Kerr, Duncan Munro Kerr was educated at Sherborne Preparatory School and then at Marlborough. As a sportsman his early impetus was towards riding and as a

boy he competed in local Pony Club events.

After leaving Marlborough he spent a year concentrating on his showjumping career and competed as a member of the British showjumping team in events in France, Poland and Zimbabwe.

After that he read law at Bristol University, during which time he was also showjumping actively. He was called to the Bar in 1974. Most of his career was devoted to criminal work, particularly commercial fraud. In addition he had been appointed to sit as an Assistant Recorder from next year.

Meanwhile, Munro Kerr had been asked by a friend from university days, Nick Playfair, to help him to crew his 37 ft yacht *Clarionet*. It was his introduction to ocean racing, which was to dominate most of his leisure hours, thereafter. Through it he was also to meet his future wife Catherine Greville, during Cowes Week in 1978. She was already an experienced offshore yacht racer, who had first competed with her father in *Trocar* at the age of 11. She was soon a regular member of the crew of *Clarionet*, and competed in as many offshore events as her medical studies would permit.

In *Clarionet* (of which he was a co-owner from 1982 to 1984) he competed in many of the Royal Ocean Racing Club's races, including the 1977, 1979 and 1983 Fastnet races. The Sparkman & Stephens One Tonner, which had been built in 1966, won her class in many of these races and the 1982 Class V Season's Points Championship in both Open and Restricted divisions.

In 1985 Munro Kerr became a co-owner of *Trocar* with his future father-in-law, Nick Greville, and they competed in many of the Royal Ocean Racing Club's races including the 1981, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1991 and 1993 Fastnet races, winning their class in 1985 and 1989 and coming second in 1987 and 1991.

Having joined the Royal Ocean Racing Club, he served for several years on its main committee and was a Rear Commodore, 1986-88. He was chairman of the Channel handicap committee in 1987, a member of the Admiral's Cup management committee, 1988-89, and chairman of the selectors for the English team for the Commodore's Cup in 1994 and 1996. He was a member of the Royal Yacht Squadron, the Bar Yacht Club and the West Mersea Yacht Club. He was a member of the council of the Royal Yachting Association, 1988-91, and, again, from 1992 to 1995.

At an international level, Munro Kerr had been a member of the Offshore Racing Council since 1990, responsible for the United Kingdom, Ireland and Hong Kong, and a member since 1990 of the constitution committee of the International Yacht Racing Union (now known as the International Sailing Federation). He is survived by his wife Catherine, whom he married in 1985, and three young daughters.



Munro Kerr aboard *Trocar* in the 1985 Fastnet Race

PERSONAL COLUMN

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

MUTHUSI, 1912, 1914, 1916, 1918, 1920, 1922, 1924, 1926, 1928, 1930, 1932, 1934, 1936, 1938, 1940, 1942, 1944, 1946, 1948, 1950, 1952, 1954, 1956, 1958, 1960, 1962, 1964, 1966, 1968, 1970, 1972, 1974, 1976, 1978, 1980, 1982, 1984, 1986, 1988, 1990, 1992, 1994, 1996.

GIFTS

A BIRTHDAY Newspaper, Original, Supplied, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2029, 2030, 2031, 2032, 2033, 2034, 2035, 2036, 2037, 2038, 2039, 2040, 2041, 2042, 2043, 2044, 2045, 2046, 2047, 2048, 2049, 2050, 2051, 2052, 2053, 2054, 2055, 2056, 2057, 2058, 2059, 2060, 2061, 2062, 2063, 2064, 2065, 2066, 2067, 2068, 2069, 2070, 2071, 2072, 2073, 2074, 2075, 2076, 2077, 2078, 2079, 2080, 2081, 2082, 2083, 2084, 2085, 2086, 2087, 2088, 2089, 2090, 2091, 2092, 2093, 2094, 2095, 2096, 2097, 2098, 2099, 2100, 2101, 2102, 2103, 2104, 2105, 2106, 2107, 2108, 2109, 2110, 2111, 2112, 2113, 2114, 2115, 2116, 2117, 2118, 2119, 2120, 2121, 2122, 2123, 2124, 2125, 2126, 2127, 2128, 2129, 2130, 2131, 2132, 2133, 2134, 2135, 2136, 2137, 2138, 2139, 2140, 2141, 2142, 2143, 2144, 2145, 2146, 2147, 2148, 2149, 2150, 2151, 2152, 2153, 2154, 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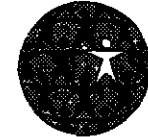
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Places are strictly limited and by invitation only. To avoid disappointment, please contact Rosalind Coffey, Pascal Smith, Joanna Adolph or Kathryn Davis at Michael Page City, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH. Telephone 0171 831 2000.



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NEWS

Paedophile escapes during zoo visit

An NHS trust was criticised by the Health Minister last night for putting children at risk by allowing a dangerous paedophile to escape from custody while on a trip to a zoo.

Gerry Malone demanded a full report on the escape of Trevor Holland, 52, while on a supervised outing from a health service medium secure unit to Chessington Zoo in Surrey. Page 1

Prescott embroiled in new Labour row

John Prescott, the deputy Labour leader who fears he is being sidelined by Tony Blair, was embroiled in another embarrassing Labour party row last night after it emerged that he had urged Shadow Cabinet colleagues not to leave him in the dark over policy statements. Page 1

Child's body found

The body of a child, believed to be that of six-year-old Jodi Loughlin, has been found on a Norfolk beach. Page 1

Bruno quits ring

Frank Bruno, whose punch never matched his popularity, has quit boxing. Pages 1, 49

Father's despair

The father of Chris Howes, a British mine clearance expert, says he has given up hope that his son is alive after a report of his murder by the Khmer Rouge. Page 3

French calf imports

French calves are being shipped to Britain for slaughter under a scheme intended to compensate British dairy farmers. Page 4

Daylight robbery

Masked robbers with knives snatched a driver's £16,000 Rolex from his wrist after smashing the windows of his car in rush-hour London traffic. Page 5

Sunstruck Germans buy up Majorca

There are more than 50,000 Majorcan properties in German hands on an island with a population of only 600,000. Property prices have soared and stories abound of Germans knocking on doors to ask: "How much for your house?" Page 12

Wise counsel

Girls' schools are turning to counsellors to help pupils to cope with GCSE exam pressure. Page 6

Missing plea

A woman has appealed for information about her husband, who vanished three weeks ago on the island of Kephallonia. Page 7

Rainbow revelation

François Mitterrand personally approved the undercover operation that led to the sinking of the Greenpeace ship *Rainbow Warrior*, a book claims. Page 9

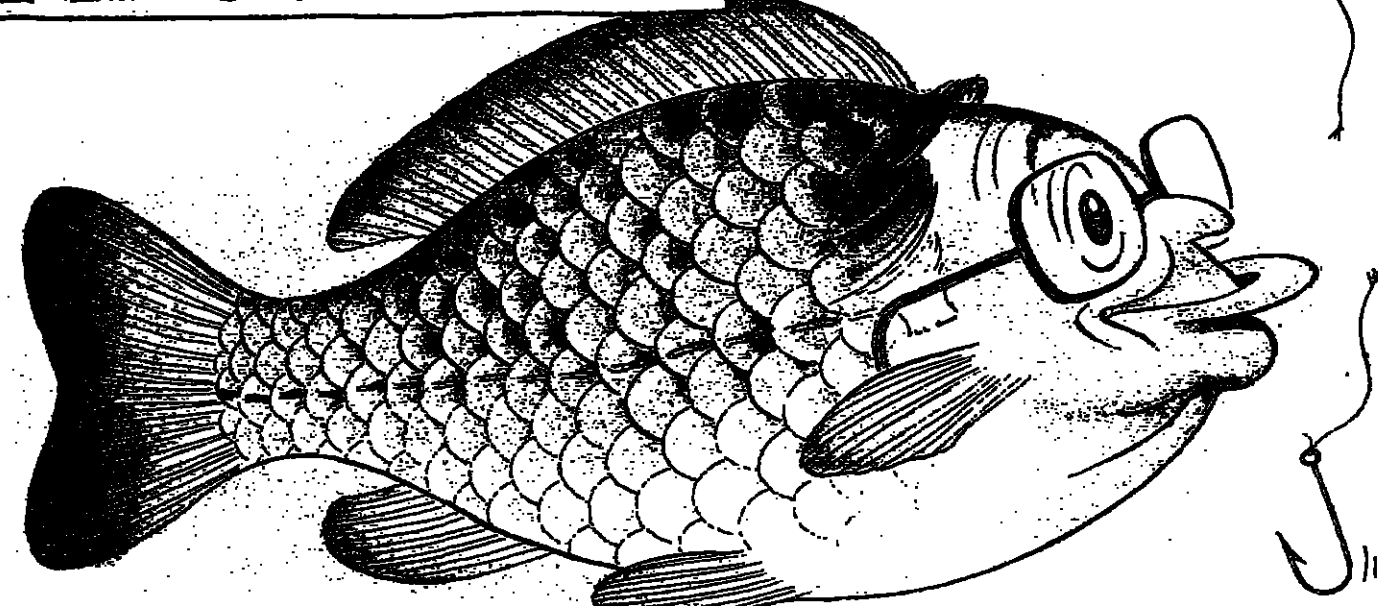
Paedophile controls

The Belgian Cabinet has endorsed measures to prevent a repeat of a case such as that of the paedophile Marc Dutroux. Page 10

Back on the stump

President Clinton returned to the campaign trail but the party convention has failed to give him extra momentum. Page 11

NATURE NOTES



Howard's Carp (*Dontblamemeus itsnotmyfaultus*)
Impossible to keep on the hook. Has very sharp teeth and a slippery body. Oleaginous.

OPINION

On from Chicago: The balance of probability suggests the positions Mr Clinton has adopted will ensure four more years in office. Page 17

The Prince's trust: If the Prince shows sensitivity to public feeling then there is no reason to believe that he will not be the fine monarch his talents promise. Page 17

LETTERS

Prison Service failures: "greatest glory" of Greek women; football blues; "Mandela bashing": late motherhood. Page 17

COLUMNS

Magnus Lindaker: It would be a disaster if governments used the Lottery as an excuse to back out of a commitment to the arts. Page 16

Anthony Howard: The resignation of Dick Morris is one of those blows that sometimes fall on the most deserving of heads. Page 16

OBITUARIES

Erskine Childers, Secretary-General of the World Federation of United Nations Associations; Sir Ronald Leach, accountant; Duncan Munro Kerr, yachtsman. Page 19

BUSINESS

GEC: GEC and Alcatel Alsthom are planning a merger between their engineering joint venture and Framatome, the nuclear power station builder. Page 27

Housing: Lenders sounded a cautious note on the housing market recovery as new data showed net lending improving only modestly. Page 27

Markets: The FT-SE 100 fell 17.4 points to close at 3867.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 85.0 to 85.3 after a rise from £1.5572 to £1.5630 and from DM2.3051 to DM2.3096. Page 30

SPORT

Rugby Union: Leading Welsh clubs are set to break away from their union and join their English counterparts in a new organisation. Page 52

Football: Alan Shearer will captain England for the first time in their World Cup qualifying match against Moldova tomorrow. Page 52

Tennis: Britain's Tim Henman reached the third round of the US Open men's singles. Page 52

CAR 96

Coventry celebrates 100 years as Britain's motor city

ARTS

Testing times: The "easy-listening" music that used to accompany the BBC TV test card has been newly released on CD. Page 13

Edinburgh nights: The festival's last big offerings were Peter Stein's production of *Uncle Vanya*, and a staging of Gertrude Stein's opera, *Four Saints in Three Acts*. Page 15

Pulitzer winner: Wendy Wasserstein's play, *The Heidi Chronicles*, which won a Pulitzer Prize, has received its British stage premiere. Page 13

SECTIONS

MAGAZINE

Gene Genie: Ginny Dougary meets Richard Dawkins. Page 8
From the depths: Raising the *Titanic*. Page 16

WEEKEND

Naff quaff? The new theme pubs. Page 22



Overcooked: are there too many TV cooks? Page 3
British Isles: Guernsey to Scilly. Pages 18, 19

10 15

Win a free screening of *Emma*. Page 3
Plus: Jeremy Northam, romantic hero. Page 6

VISION



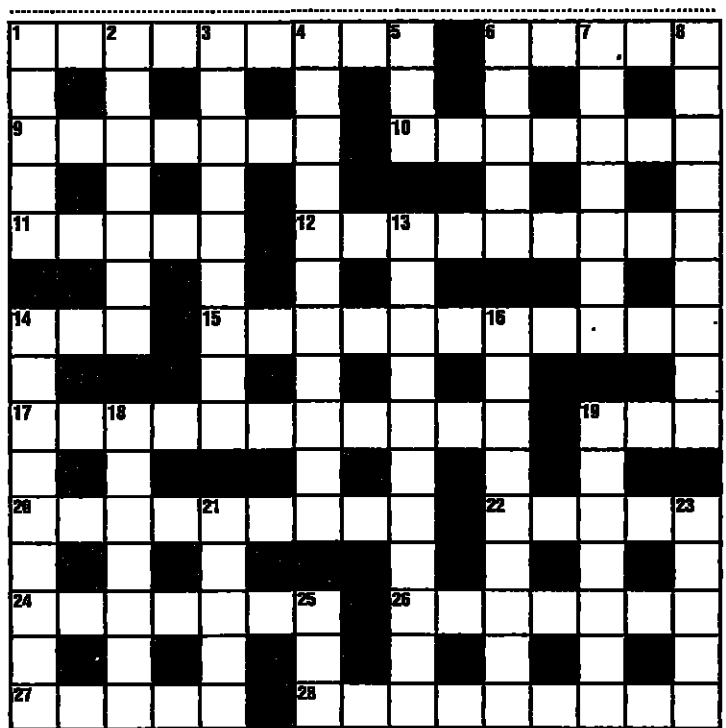
Hello girls: Letitia Dean in a new comedy drama, *Thursday*, BBC1, 8.30pm
Film: *Do the Right Thing*, tonight, BBC2, 11.45pm

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,261

ABERLOUR

A limited edition, 1970 vintage bottle of Aberlour single malt whisky, the only malt whisky to have twice won the prestigious Gold Medal and Pot Still Trophy at the International Wine & Spirit Competition, will be given for the first five correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, PO Box 486, Virginia Street, London E1 9DD. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

Name/Address



ACROSS

- Slowly cooks fruit in vessel (9).
- Principle is one a singer embraces (5).
- Take too long to inflict decisive defeat (7).
- Read out title and corresponding opening (4,3).
- Volunteers grabbing lifeboat to get other (5).
- Resolution by one politician coming into effect soon (9).
- Hard to avoid sight of relief, finding a seat (3).
- Gesture, should I be unable to find material (11).
- Examine surroundings, wriggling toe in corner (11).
- Habitually row over thickness (3).
- One wouldn't want to set off on a walk here (9).
- Taking offence (5).
- Title of the late king? (7).
- One offers lots to throw caution to the winds? (7).
- Order any article missing in set (5).
- Bark and blossom (9).

DOWN

- A good loser is object of mockery (5).
- Watch bishop going over argument, surprised it's raised (7).
- People at fault, gravely so (6,3).
- Collaborating closely, but passing on nothing (4,2,5).
- Lodging for tramp (3).
- Seasoned jelly made of mussels, we hear (5).
- Type of verse I sent as composed (7).
- Lively agent covers both sides, but not to the same extent (9).
- Artistically presented Madam Butterfly (7,4).
- Vital soldier dropped on hill (9).
- Having entire correspondence in dialect, needs translation (9).
- Manage to study almost all fish (7).
- Start to prepare criticism for show before first night (7).
- Hurry to accept top honours for type of pastry (5).
- His services are required with troublesome frequency (5).
- This vegetable needs a month to come up (3).

Solution to Puzzle No 20,255

NOHOW CUTAGAPORI
E A E H R O B E I
O B L I G A T O W R O N G
P I G G I S T U E H
H U T C H I N T U R G I S H
C O I D E O
B R E T O N S R A W D E A L
I N W I T I N A
A N T O N Y M I N U T E S
R E I E T
O V E R T A K E S G O W N S
N E I T L A P
C I O W N C H A R A C T E R
A U C A K S E A
M I S C H A N C E S T R E W

Solution to Puzzle No 20,260

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C R Y T T E E T
K I S S E R U N T A R C H
O E N R
O K A P I U N B R A I D L E D
V S T U N I
N E I G H B O U R T R E S S
M E V H M O
P O P U L A C E M E M B E R
C O P E G A R T
S O U R D O U C H A G P E
E N I R C R C N
R A D I A N T P A T I E N T

LAST WEEK'S WINNERS: M Newman, Leicester; J Beardsmore, Shipley, West Yorkshire; R Nash, Salford, Walsley; Essex; M C Corbett, Wyomondham, Norfolk; J R Galloway, Stewley, Bedfordshire.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

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East Midlands	706
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North West	708
Yorkshire	709
East of England	710
West of England	711
South of England	712
North of England	713
Scotland	714
Wales	715
London & SE	716
East of London	717
South East	718
South West	719
West Midlands	720
East Midlands	721
North East	722
North West	723
Yorkshire	724
East of England	725
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South of England	727
North of England	728
Scotland	729
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South East	733
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West Midlands	735
East Midlands	736
North East	737
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East of England	740
West of England	741
South of England	742
North of England	743
Scotland	744
Wales	745

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HOURS OF DARKNESS

TODAY

Location	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	6:12 am	7:47 pm
Edinburgh	6:23 am	8:03 pm

TOMORROW

Location	Sun rises	Sun sets
London	6:13 am	7:47 pm
Edinburgh	6:24 am	8:03 pm

HIGH TIDES

TODAY

Location	AM	HT	PM	HT
Aberdeen	2:30	4.7	3:08	4.4
Aberdeen	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
Belfast	0:18	3.8	12:47	3.6
Belfast	8:40	13.1	9:00	13.1
Belfast	2:27	7.0	12:27	6.8
Belfast	0:31	4.4	1:06	4.1
Belfast	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
Belfast	2:30	4.7	3:08	4.4
Belfast	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
Belfast	0:18	3.8	12:47	3.6
Belfast	8:40	13.1	9:00	13.1
Belfast	2:27	7.0	12:27	6.8
Belfast	0:31	4.4	1:06	4.1
Belfast	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
Belfast	2:30	4.7	3:08	4.4
Belfast	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
Belfast	0:18	3.8	12:47	3.6
Belfast	8:40	13.1	9:00	13.1
Belfast	2:27	7.0	12:27	6.8
Belfast	0:31	4.4	1:06	4.1
Belfast	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
Belfast	2:30	4.7	3:08	4.4
Belfast	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
Belfast	0:18	3.8	12:47	3.6
Belfast	8:40	13.1	9:00	13.1
Belfast	2:27	7.0	12:27	6.8
Belfast	0:31	4.4	1:06	4.1
Belfast	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
Belfast	2:30	4.7	3:08	4.4
Belfast	8:48	14.3	9:08	14.4
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